

Beijing Diary Claude Bissell's historic trip / **Green All Over** The sustainable campus / **Women in Politics** Where are they?
Mapping the Mind Creating a virtual brain / **The Outlaw** Design renegade Bill Buxton / **An Apple for Teacher?** How quaint!

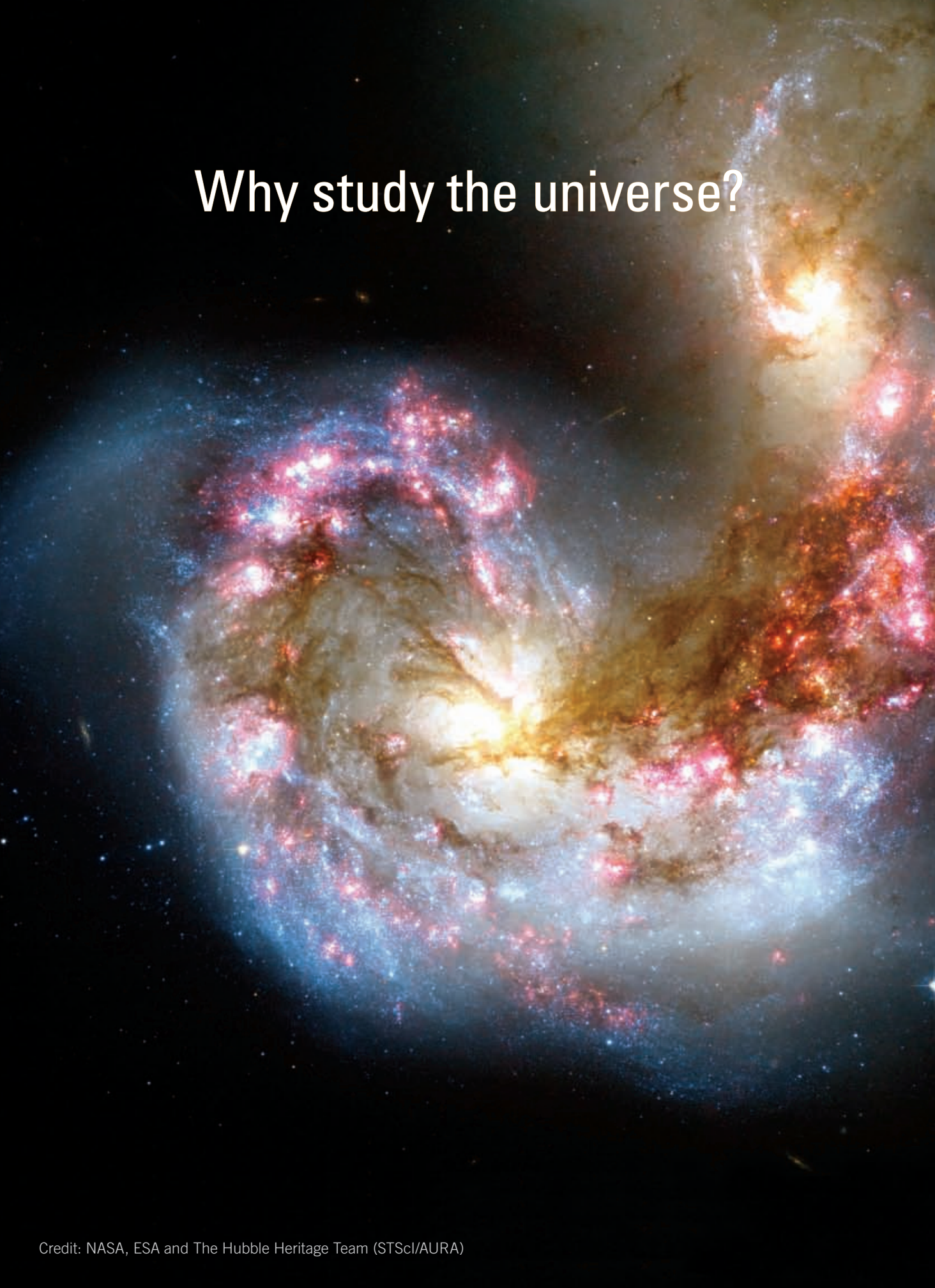
UofT Magazine

SUMMER 2010



Parents – at Last!
Science offers new options
for infertile couples

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Summer 2010



Beijing Diary Former president Claude Bissell's visit to China foreshadowed the spirit of international exchange at U of T today

by Deirdre Macdonald

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From solar-heated showers to composting in residence, students are leading efforts to make U of T more sustainable

by Cynthia Macdonald

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Science is enabling more and more couples to conceive, but some formidable barriers remain

by Marcia Kaye

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Departments

"I've never felt I was the historian for queens and kings"

Natalie Zemon Davis, winner of the 2010 Holberg International Memorial Prize, p. 14



One of Canada's longest-serving mayors adds a feather to her cap



Why is Caravaggio's popularity on the rise?



Some students express appreciation for their professors in unusual ways

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“For one thing, nobody gets to choose where they are born”

– Anne Thackray MA 1974 TORONTO

Balancing Act

John Lorinc's profile of Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair ("Force for Change," Spring 2010) was well done. But the article failed to mention Chief Blair's expert handling of the Tamil protests in 2009. For several months, impassioned protesters, galvanized by grief at events in Sri Lanka, disrupted Toronto's streets. Blair's measured response preserved the balance between public safety and every citizen's right to free speech. It ended up being a lesson to all in the latitude we must offer, and the occasional inconveniences we must accept, if we want to live in a free society.

– Cecilia Kennedy BA 1974 ST. MICHAEL'S BRAMPTON, ONTARIO

Birthright Is Complex

I read law professor Ayelet Shachar's ideas about citizenship with incredulity ("Birthright Lottery," Spring 2010). Does Professor Shachar truly think a "birthright privilege levy" should be paid by people according to whether they happen to be born in, say, Canada rather than Haiti?

For one thing, nobody gets to choose where they are born. For another, simply being born in a particular country isn't a guarantee of lifelong good for-

tune, even in Canada – as some of our aboriginal people can attest to.

Moreover, living conditions can rise and fall drastically within a single lifetime. While I have yet to read Professor Shachar's book, your account of it suggests that the issues she raises are more complex than she may realize.

– Anne Thackray MA 1974 TORONTO

Stealth Tax

The researchers John Lorinc cites in "The Better Way? Not so Fast" (Spring 2010) are sadly misinformed about the gridlock-reducing scheme erected in London. I say "erected" due to the phenomenal expense of intrusive cameras and 50-foot masts now placed at every street and lane entering central London.

Tolls to pass London city gates were appropriate in medieval times, but not today. The London Congestion Charge is a stealth tax on the general public – who are not getting into their cars, vans and lorries every day for the pure pleasure of rush-hour traffic. They need their vehicles. Public transport doesn't carry a load of lumber, and bicycle lanes don't help the infirm. Take note, Toronto!

– Nancy Bezoari BA 1977 VICTORIA LONDON, ENGLAND

Kenyan Labour Shortage?

I was somewhat puzzled by Dr. Alison Kelford's description of her trip to Kenya to work on building a school ("What a School Can Be," Spring 2010). Experiences such as Dr. Kelford's with Free the Children are a wonderful way for Canadians to learn about a country very different from their own. But to suggest that they foster community development is a bit of a stretch. Local people benefit more from being paid to build their own schools than from smiling at imported workers from privileged countries. There is no shortage of general labourers in Kenya.

– Lise Watson BA 1987 VIC, TESL 1992 WOODS, MA 2002 OISE TORONTO

No Nobel in Economics


I know that I'm being picky and trying to fight common (mis)use, but the reference in "Is Life Getting Better?" (Winter 2010) by Kurt Kleiner to "the Nobel Prize-winning economist" is just wrong. No one has won a Nobel Prize in Economics because there is no such prize.

An acceptable short form for the prize is Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences but the correct title is Sveriges Riksbank (Swedish Royalbank) Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. The latter is quite a mouthful, so the former is acceptable.

– Dick Swenson WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON

|| ☞ Read more comments from readers at www.magazine.utoronto.ca.

Calendar of Events

 **MORE EVENTS!**
Check out the latest campus happenings at www.utoronto.ca.

JUNE 19 TO JULY 24



Doris McCarthy: Roughing It in the Bush.

Artist Doris McCarthy is celebrating her 100th birthday in July. To commemorate it, the Doris McCarthy Gallery at U of T

Scarborough and the U of T Art Centre are presenting an exhibition that includes her hard-edge paintings from the '60s, large-scale landscapes and more.

Free. U of T Art Centre: Tues. to Fri., 12-5 p.m., Sat., 12-4 p.m. 15 King's College Circle. (416) 978-1838 or www.utac.utoronto.ca. Doris McCarthy Gallery: Wed. to Fri., 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., Sat., 12-5 p.m. 1265 Military Trail. (416) 287-7007 or www.utsc.utoronto.ca/dmg.

ALUMNI

June to August Soldiers' Tower

The Memorial Room museum in the Soldiers' Tower is open on select dates in June, July and August. There will also be **carillon recitals** on select dates. For info: soldiers.tower@utoronto.ca, (416) 978-0544 or www.alumni.utoronto.ca/tower.

June 28

San Francisco Bay Area

All Canadian Universities alumni and friends reception. For info, contact teo.salgado@utoronto.ca or (416) 978-2368, or visit www.alumni.utoronto.ca.

October 16 and November 6 Toronto

SHAKER Habitat for Humanity

Build Days. Young alumni are invited to help build a home for a family in need. Transportation to the build site, lunch and equipment are

provided. Small celebration to follow. Only 20 spots are available for each date. For details and to register, contact Sabrina Martinez at sabrina.martinez@utoronto.ca.

EXHIBITIONS

To September 17

Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

Leaves of Enchantment, Bones of Inspiration: The Dawn of Chinese Studies in Canada

will exhibit highlights from the Mu Collection, a major Chinese rare book collection from the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library, spanning the period from the Song Dynasty to the Qing Dynasty. The rich history of Chinese writing and book culture will be illustrated alongside artifacts from the Royal Ontario Museum. Mon. to Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 120 St. George St. For more information, (416) 978-5285 or visit www.library.utoronto.ca/fisher.

NATURE

Koffler Scientific Reserve at Jokers Hill

July 10: Creepy, Crawly and Cool – Insects.

Sandy Smith, entomologist and U of T professor of forestry, talks insects during these 90-minute walks. **Walks** begin at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. A **kid's bug hunt** takes place at 12:45 p.m. Free, but spaces are limited, so register early.

Oct. 9: Mushrooms on the Moraine.

Learn to identify mushrooms and other fungi during this all-day workshop. Part of the day will be spent in the forest, and the remainder in the teaching lab identifying the collected specimens. Instructor: naturalist Richard Aaron. \$60 fee. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Enrolment is limited to 16, so register early.

Both events take place at 17000 Dufferin Street (between Highway 9

and 19th Sideroad), King Township. For more info and to register online, visit <http://ksr.utoronto.ca> or contact ksr.info@utoronto.ca.

SPORTS

July 28 to 31

Varsity Centre

2010 Canadian Track & Field Championships.

Come see the best athletes in Canada compete in the heart of Toronto. 299 Bloor St. W. Ticket price TBA. www.athletics.ca

THEATRE

July 13 to 24

Philosopher's Walk

Twelfth Night, a romantic and musical comedy by William Shakespeare. Directed by Jeremy Hutton. Tenth anniversary of outdoor theatre in downtown Toronto. Philosopher's Stage at Philosopher's Walk. 80 Queen's Park. Tues. to Sat. at 8 p.m. \$10. Students and seniors: \$8. PWYC Tuesdays. BYOB (Bring Your Own Blanket). For tickets, (416) 978-8849 or www.uofttix.ca. For more information, please visit www.canopytheatre.ca.


September 15 to October 2

Hart House Theatre

Richard III, by William Shakespeare, follows the corrupt path of a twisted man with equally twisted ambitions. Richard manipulates, marries and murders his way to the top. \$25. Students and seniors: \$15. (On Wednesdays, \$10 for students.) Wed. to Sat., 8 p.m. A 2 p.m. matinee on Sat., Oct. 2. Additional matinees TBA. To purchase tickets, call (416) 978-8849 or visit www.uofttix.ca. For more information, please visit www.harthousetheatre.ca or email evelyn.wiseman@utoronto.ca.

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Chris McKnight
Varsity Blues Mountain Bike Team

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Our Green Future

U of T is rising to the global sustainability challenge



THE EQUILIBRIUM OF THE GLOBAL ECOSYSTEM IS under serious threat owing to unsustainable patterns of resource consumption in both industrialized nations and rapidly developing economies. Researchers at all three University of Toronto campuses are deeply engaged in the quest for solutions to the world's most vexing environmental problems. And our students are not only contributing to the university's research efforts, but leading the charge to reduce the carbon footprint of the university itself.

In a brief column, I can't begin to catalogue the range of innovative activities underway. For example, a number of scientists are helping position the University of Toronto – and Canada – as a world leader in solar energy research. Engineering professors Ted Sargent and Nazir Kherani, in distinctive but complementary projects, are each using nanotechnology to boost the amount of electricity that solar cells yield. Tim Bender, also an engineering professor, is working on creating organic solar cells that when stacked together absorb the full range of the light spectrum. And Greg Scholes, in the department of chemistry, is studying photosynthesis – the process by which plants and algae convert sunlight to energy – to understand how solar cells can be made more efficient.

On the consumption side of the equation, almost half of the world's population relies on rice as a food staple. Professor Herbert Kronzucker, a plant biologist at U of T Scarborough, is investigating ways to improve the yield of rice crops as a potential solution to world hunger.

Many discoveries made at U of T are already being applied in the "real world." As one example, in March, Biox became the first publicly traded biodiesel company in Canada. The company, based in Oakville, Ontario, uses a process that chemistry professor David Boocock developed at U of T in the 1990s to convert waste animal fat into a clean-burning biodiesel fuel.

U of T, as always, is making its largest mark by educating tomorrow's environmental leaders. There are literally hundreds of courses across all three campuses that bear on sustainability and environmental issues. Students can prepare themselves to create a greener future with offerings from

engineering, geology, physics, chemistry, geography, public policy, law and international development, among other disciplines. The Centre for Environment serves as an important umbrella on the St. George Campus. And the department of physical and environmental sciences at U of T Scarborough is now developing a trans-disciplinary PhD program in the field – the first of its kind at U of T.

Our students, raised during an era of heightened environmental concerns, have initiated many projects geared toward making the university itself a more sustainable place. Some fall under the auspices of the St. George Sustainability Office (see p. 34). Others defy categorization: Investors without Borders, a group based at U of T Mississauga, is overseeing a global competition among university students to identify environmentally sound investment opportunities in the renewable energy sector.

The university, happily, has a long history in the field of sustainability. Pollution Probe had its origins at the University of Toronto in 1969, with zoologist Donald A. Chant mentoring a group of committed student activists. The St. George Campus recycling operation, launched in 1991, is now one of the most comprehensive and successful in North America. Other initiatives, however, reflect new technologies. This year, the administration is collaborating with an industrial partner to test window coatings for use in our heritage buildings, and also engaged in a large-scale field test of induction and LED outdoor lights.

In sum, the challenges facing our hot and crowded planet are truly daunting. At home or abroad, your university is committed to being part of the solutions to the complex challenges of sustainable global development. We are also proud that many of today's students will be joining thousands of University of Toronto alumni who are already playing a catalytic role in sustainability initiatives and green enterprises all over the world.

Sincerely,
David Naylor



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now I can afford
the basic necessities
of being a student
and a parent.”

Simone Akyianu

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UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Life on Campus



Nature Study

Every year, Arthur Weis welcomes more than 500 undergrads to Koffler Scientific Reserve

Beneath a glorious blue sky, 17 U of T students stand under a canopy of budding trees. Their focus, though, is on the mud. The nature buffs are analyzing the cheery yellow flower of a young coltsfoot that has poked through the soil. Ivana Stehlik, an ecology and evolutionary-biology lecturer, explains that the species is native to Europe

and Asia. The classmates debate whether early settlers brought it to North America for its medicinal effects. "Coltsfoot makes good cough syrup," says one student.

The class is one of many to visit U of T's Koffler Scientific Reserve at Jokers Hill, in King Township. Every year, more than 500 U of T undergrads go from learning about >>>

>> science to actually doing science at Jokers Hill. Students from Trent, Western and McMaster in Ontario, and as far away as the University of Singapore also come to analyze fungi and the milkweed longhorn beetle, listen to chickadees, and more. Jokers Hill is generally not accessible to the public, but you can sign up for a U of T nature walk or workshop.

Arthur Weis, the director of Jokers Hill, says the property promises to be one of North America's leading field research stations. Since it opened for research in 1997, more than 85 reports have been published based on studies performed at the facility. The researchers stick brightly coloured flags in the ground to mark off the areas where they're probing questions such as: What makes some plant species become invasive? Do plant genes affect insect diversity? How have plant mating systems evolved? After a horse from a neighbouring farm trampled a grad student's research project, Jokers Hill banned horses from the property. (In the 1950s, the property was named after Joker, a horse fond of climbing up the highest hill on the estate.)

In 1969, Drs. Murray and Marvelle Koffler bought the 865-acre property so their five children could play in the sun-drenched meadows. In 1995, after their family had grown, they donated it to U of T in the largest-ever land gift to a Canadian university. The Kofflers trusted U of T to preserve the biodiversity of the segment of the Oak Ridges Moraine where Jokers Hill sits and to change its focus from horses to scientific research. The family had used the property as an equestrian centre, but now the paddocks, riding trails and fields are living laboratories where biologists, geologists, foresters and grad students conduct research.

"The land presents unlimited research opportunities, but to take advantage of them we needed a lab to set up microscopes, balances and DNA equipment," says Weis. To provide the investigators with the tools they need, the racing barn has been transformed into a research facility. The new walls are lined with lab benches, centrifuges and freezers, but the horse-stall doors remain, honouring the building's past.

On July 10 at Jokers Hill, there are two 90-minute "Creepy, Crawly and Cool – Insects" nature walks and a children's bug hunt (free). On October 9, there's an all-day "Mushrooms on the Moraine" workshop (\$60). For more information and to register, visit ksr.utoronto.ca.
– Susan Pedwell

Read more about these Jokers Hill events on page 5.



Waging Peace

Three of his daughters were killed by Israeli fire. In Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish's new book, he calls for an end to the violence

DR. IZZELDIN ABUELAISH, a professor in global health at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, is standing in front of a large framed photo in his office. The picture is of three girls wearing pretty, delicate headscarves, on a beach with the clear blue Mediterranean behind them. In the sand, each has written her name: Mayar, Aya and Bessan. The girls are three of Abuelaish's daughters, who were killed a month after the picture was taken – on January 16, 2009, during the Israeli incursion into the Gaza Strip. "They were very successful, very brilliant, very bright girls," says Abuelaish, who lived in Gaza and worked in a hospital in Tel Aviv, Israel, at the time. "Bessan



PHOTO: DANIEL EHRENWORTH

was supposed to finish her BA, six months after she was killed. Mayar was the brightest girl in Gaza Strip in math – the teachers were fighting to get her in their classes.... Aya, the beautiful, was the girl who dreamed.”

The picture is also on the cover of Abuelaish’s new book, *I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor’s Journey*, which recounts his life story – and the tragedy that happened during the Israeli assault on Gaza: Abuelaish – who had eight children – had just walked out of the girls’ bedroom when the first shell hit, killing his three daughters and niece Noor. His daughter, Shatha, and another niece were severely wounded. (His wife, Nadia, had died of leukemia four months earlier.) The immediate aftermath was captured on live TV, when Abuelaish phoned a journalist friend for help. Two days later the Israeli prime minister announced a ceasefire, which Abuelaish believes was instigated after the leader saw him on TV. “I told my daughter, Shatha... the blood of your sisters wasn’t in vain. It saved others’ lives.”

As a doctor, Abuelaish has always tried to foster dialogue and build a bridge between Palestinians and Israelis. For years, he lived in Gaza Strip and worked in hospitals in Israel. (He was one of the very few Palestinians who had a permit to work

in the country.) Abuelaish sees hospitals as a place where people can be seen for their humanity – where doctors treat patients, not nationality or ethnicity. In his book he sends a message of tolerance that encourages not only Israelis and Palestinians, but people throughout the world to see the humanity in each other and promote a brighter future for their children.

In honour of his daughters, Abuelaish has started the Daughters for Life Foundation, which will provide education and health-care access to girls and women in the Middle East. He believes a shift toward peace lies partly in helping females reach their full potential. (Indeed, in his book, he writes that “It’s easy to find a thousand men in favour of war; it’s difficult to find five women who are inclined that way.”)

“I want to tell others that life doesn’t stop with tragedies. My daughters’ names were written in sand, and now they are written on tomb[stones]. But they will be returned in stone, in metal, by actions, by deeds,” says Abuelaish, referring to their names being written on buildings that support the education of girls. His voice catches and tears well in his eyes. “In my life that is all I want: to give justice to those girls, and other innocent people in this world.” – *Stacey Gibson*



Like many political candidates today, hopefuls in the U of T Students’ Union elections relied on social media such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to drum up votes. But newly elected president Adam Awad and his team also hit the streets to hand out the traditional buttons, posters and flyers, and to speak with students face to face.

Awad took office on May 1, and two of his priorities are making textbooks available on Blackboard (an online academic tool) and cutting tuition fees. He will represent 44,000 students on the St. George and U of T Mississauga campuses. However, neither ubiquitous buttons nor new technology could eradicate one perennial problem: poor voter turnout. Fewer than 8,000 students cast a vote. – *Suzanna Chang*



Seuss Power!

Singers and dancers from the Etobicoke School of the Arts entertain young patients at the Hospital for Sick Children with a lively and colourful rendition of “Oh the Things You Can Think” from *Seussical the Musical*. (Adam McLaughlin plays Horton the Elephant.) About 50 kids gathered with their parents and hospital workers in the Sick Kids lobby recently and watched the troupe perform Broadway tunes and pop songs.

The show was arranged by Kids Helping Sick Kids through Song, a U of T group that fourth-year pathobiology student Elliott Borinsky founded last year to recruit talented young musicians and dancers to perform for sick children in various venues. The hospital has asked Borinsky to produce quarterly performances.

“As a performer, I realized the power of song to inspire hope,” says Borinsky, who attended the Etobicoke School of the Arts himself and has sung with the Children’s Opera Chorus and the Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir. – Jane Bao

Overheard



In the ’90s and 2000s, Wall Street’s large firms became factories for trading securities often with no – or only scant – social value. And as banks shifted from [being] bankers to traders, I think their moral compass and behaviour inevitably suffered.



Roger Lowenstein,
author of *The End of Wall Street*,
at the Rotman School of
Management, May 6.

Poll | What do you prefer to read for pleasure in the summer?

Books:

56%



Magazines:

25%



Other:

11%



Nothing:

8%



Exams have ended, and many students have shelved the hefty textbooks and turned to more entertaining print fare. What (if anything) are they reading this summer? Fifty-six per cent are hitting the books: from the classics (one student intends to reread *Crime and Punishment*), to historical fiction, to “anything I’m told not to.” Fiction was preferred four to one over non-fiction. Others are avoiding text altogether – some citing assigned-reading burnout. And two students have picked blogs as their favourite read. Grad student and blogger Kim Neale appreciates the individuality they afford, noting, “It’s such a great outlet for youth.”

This highly unscientific poll of 100 U of T students was conducted on St. George Campus in April.

The Dream Maker Isaac Olowolafe Jr. donates \$25,000 to help students in U of T's African Studies program



A 26-YEAR-OLD real estate entrepreneur has created the university's largest endowment fund for students in the African Studies program. The fund will support an annual award for students in financial need.

Isaac Olowolafe Jr., who earned an economics degree at U of T Mississauga in 2007, sees the donation both as an expression of gratitude and an investment. He made the gift through Dream Maker Realty, a Toronto-area real estate firm he co-founded with his father, which specializes in educating first-time buyers about using real estate to generate wealth.

"One of the mandates of Dream Maker Realty is to give back to the community – and what better way to give back than by supporting promising students," says Olowolafe. "I believe that a solid education empowers people to make good decisions in life and effect positive change for their families and community."

Born in Ibadan, Nigeria, Olowolafe came to Canada at the age of four. He grew up in northwest Toronto, but for high school moved to Woodbridge, Ontario, where he

now lives with his wife. He works with his father and role model, Isaac Sr.

Olowolafe chose to support African studies, in particular, because he believes Africa's history, culture and contributions to the world are often overlooked. He hopes the award will encourage all students – not just students of African heritage – to learn more about the continent.

Olowolafe has pledged \$25,000 to establish the endowment fund. This amount is matched by an equivalent grant from the Ontario Trust for Student Support, a program of the Ontario government. The value of the annual award will be based on investment income from the total endowment of \$50,000.

Recent graduates rarely make such large gifts to the university, but Olowolafe says his parents strongly influenced his views on charity. "Giving back was something that was taught to me as a child. You give your tithes at church and try to help individuals who are less fortunate. You don't have to wait until you're 40 or 50 to give back." He hopes other young graduates will follow his example.

The Dream Maker Realty/Olowolafe Family Award will be given by New College to a Canadian student residing in Ontario. Preference will be given to students pursuing a major or specialist program in African Studies.

"This is the largest endowment fund supporting students in the African Studies program at the university," says program director Thomas Kwasi Tiekou. "Having someone so young support us is very encouraging."

– Arthur Kapitanis and Scott Anderson

Northern Light Trips to the Arctic inspired scholarship for aboriginal students

EDWARD DAWSON, A GEOPHYSICIST WHO often travelled to the Far North while working for the federal government, named U of T a beneficiary of his life insurance in order to establish a university-wide scholarship for aboriginal students. Dawson passed away earlier this year.

Between 1953 and 1981, Dawson went on several expeditions to the Canadian Arctic for the department of Energy, Mines and Resources to measure changes in the Earth's magnetic field. He often lived and worked in Inuit communities, and his niece, Phyllis Johnson, says he gained a great deal of respect for the local people. He assembled a large collection

of Inuit art, which he and his wife, Dorothy, proudly displayed in their Ottawa home. "He became enamoured with the Inuit people," says Johnson. "He may have seen the scholarship as an opportunity to give to the children up there."

Born in Scotland in 1920, Dawson came to Canada as a youth to live with his aunt and uncle in Hamilton, Ontario. He served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War and was awarded the Italy Star, a volunteer service medal. After returning to Canada, he earned a bachelor's degree from McMaster University and, in 1952, a master's of science from U of T, where he studied under renowned geophysicist J. Tuzo Wilson. It was while working with Wilson that he met Dorothy Perryman; she was Wilson's secretary.

"Edward had a very strong affection for the University of Toronto," says Johnson. "He came from humble beginnings but through education made something of himself."

– Scott Anderson



The Social Historian

Professor Natalie Zemon Davis gives new life to history's outsiders

THE VIGOROUS DISCUSSIONS HISTORIAN Natalie Zemon Davis recently had with a colleague about her life and craft have been gathered in the new book *A Passion for History*. The term “passion” is an overused one, but here there is truth in advertising – passion has long infused the professor’s teaching, writing and activism, and helped her win the Holberg International Memorial Prize, worth approximately \$780,000, from the Norwegian government for outstanding work in the humanities.

As a graduate student at the University of Michigan, her passion for social justice led her to write a pamphlet protesting the House Un-American Activities Committee’s red hunt. This resulted in her losing her U.S. passport for eight years. Never mind: she spent the 1950s sniffing what she calls the

“perfume” of the rare book libraries of North America to ground her academic research into 16th-century France. A junior professor at U of T in the 1960s, the young mother helped lead the successful fight to found a staff daycare, then moved on to professorial posts at Berkeley and Princeton, before returning in the late 1990s to U of T.

A pioneering social historian, Davis focused her published works on individuals who have reached out of the musty documents and grabbed her: on workers and peasants, on women and outsiders, mainly between the 16th and 18th centuries. “I’ve never felt I was the historian for queens and kings.... It’s the others who need me,” says Davis, professor of medieval studies, and adjunct professor of history and anthropology at U of T.

Among those who’ve drawn her passionate interest: a Jewish merchant woman in 17th-century Germany who wrote a bestselling autobiography; a Quebec nun who taught herself Algonquian and Iroquoian in order to aid missionary work; and, most famously, the French peasant who impersonated another, taking his belongings and siring a daughter with his wife. It was with her 1982 book on this cunning imposter, *The Return of Martin Guerre*, that she made her name – and then was asked to consult on a film dramatization.

The prize acknowledging all this social history is a boon – enabling Davis to donate money to some of those rare book libraries she haunted over the years, among other causes. But she’s not going to let the prize be the capstone of her career. She’s now writing a book on a slave family in colonial Suriname in South America – and was poring over a slave-ship log when we spoke. “Old age is supposed to be the time when one finds a resolution, intellectual and moral,” says Davis, 81. “My old age isn’t like that; it’s full of complications, questions, mystification and uncertainties. The books I read didn’t prepare me for this – but it’s exciting all the same.” – *Alec Scott*

TOP PHOTO: KEVIN VAN PASSEN / THE GLOBE AND MAIL, BOTTOM PHOTO: PAUL MAYNE, WESTERN NEWS

People

For the third year in a row, **U of T** has been named one of Canada’s Best Diversity Employers. The award honours U of T’s dedication to establishing a work environment that embraces all groups of people and eliminates discrimination.

A renowned child development expert has been chosen as the new dean of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Professor **Julia O’Sullivan** was



Prof. Julia O’Sullivan

previously dean of education at the University of Western Ontario. She begins July 1.

Forestry professor **Sandy Smith** has been appointed dean of the Faculty of Forestry beginning July 1. Smith is cross-appointed to the Centre for Environment, and department of ecology and evolutionary biology.

Yves Roberge, a professor of linguistics in the department of French, has been appointed as the principal of New College beginning July 1. Roberge has served as acting principal of St. Michael’s College.

Professor **Janet Paterson**, principal of Innis College, has been reappointed for three years beginning July 1. Paterson also continues to teach two graduate French courses.

Faye Mishna was named dean of U of T’s Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work beginning this past February. Mishna, the Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Chair in Child and Family, previously served as interim dean of the faculty.

An Apple for Teacher? How Quaint Some U of T students go out of their way to express how much they appreciate their favourite prof



Prof. Monika Havelka with some gifts from her students

Professor **Don McLean** has been named dean of U of T's Faculty of Music. McLean, a music theorist and dean of the Schulich School of Music at McGill University, will begin Jan. 1, 2011.

Wendy Cecil has been named the next chancellor of Victoria University. She will succeed filmmaker Norman Jewison in October. Cecil is chair of U of T's Presidents' Circle.

THREE PLASTIC HORSES prance next to Monika Havelka's computer. A nearby shelf proudly displays an antler from a white-tailed deer. And what's that? A bone?

"My students give me all sorts of things," says Havelka, a biology lecturer at U of T Mississauga. "One person gave me a scute from a turtle shell, another a shell necklace." But what says "You're a great biology teacher" better than the gift of a bone from a dead raccoon?

Some U of T students go out of their way to express how much they appreciate their favourite prof. Havelka has thumbtacked a slew of student thank-you notes to her bulletin board, and one undergrad baked Havelka a gooey chocolate cake.

A more modern act of admiration is to set up a Facebook page for your venerated prof. Fans of English professor Nick Mount started an "I Heart Nick Mount" page. "I'm of course very flattered," says Mount, adding that he hasn't visited the page. "I don't want to eavesdrop on student conversations outside the domain of my courses."

Adoring students also set up a Facebook page for Shafique Virani. The Islamic Studies prof keeps in touch with his former students, some of whom say that taking a course with him transformed their life. For them, gratitude knows no limits. One previous student gave Virani the privilege of naming her firstborn. (He and the couple decided to call the little girl Reyha.) Another previous pupil asked Virani to be the best man at his wedding. "You changed my life," he told Virani.

Virani would have gladly been best man if he hadn't been living outside Canada at the time. Still, Virani shared in the wedding as much as he could. "I spoke with the groom while he was in the car on the way to the wedding."

"I absolutely adore my students, so the sentiment of respect and affection is mutual," Virani continues. "It's heartwarming to know that I played a role in my students' lives, just as they've played a role in making me who I am."

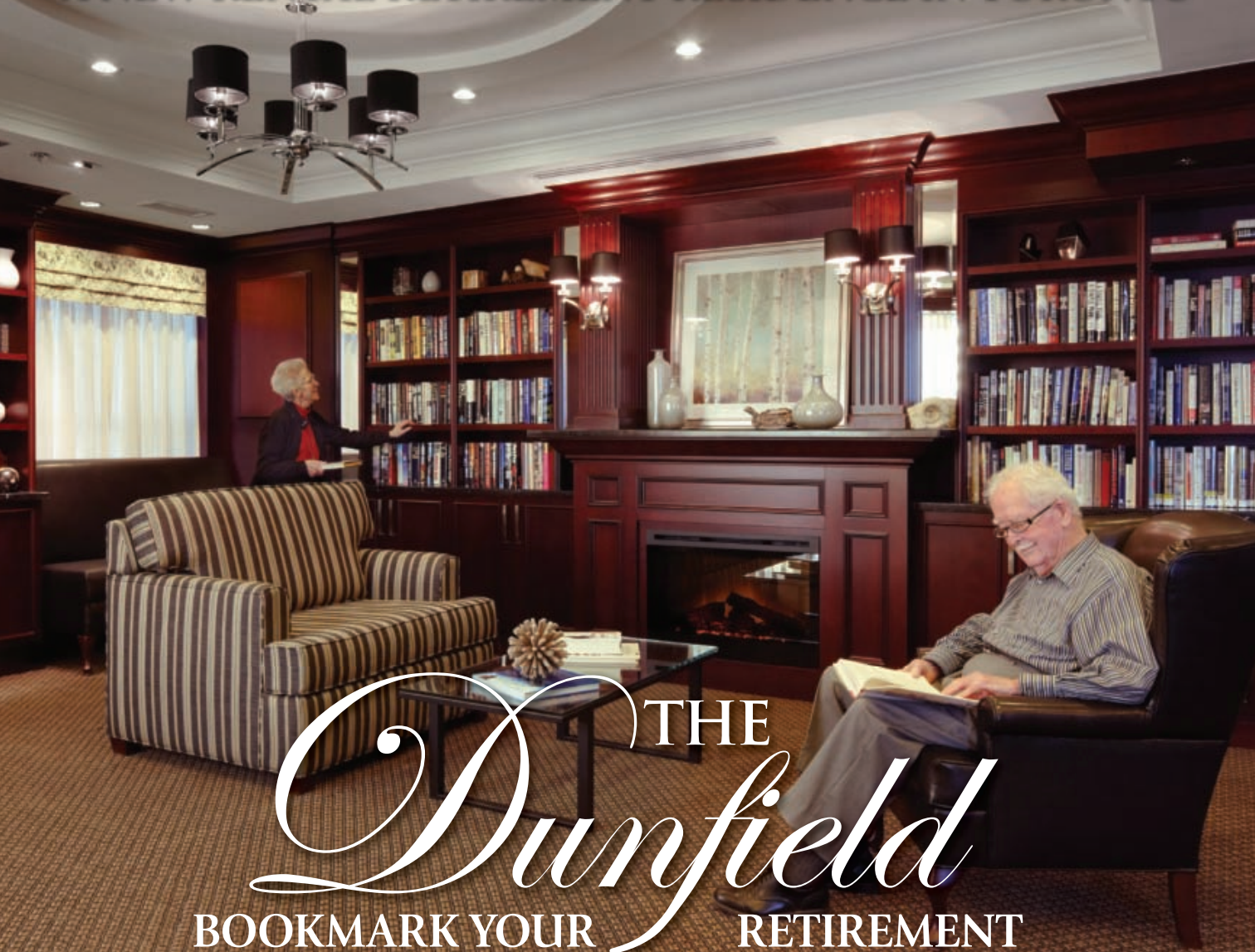
For Clare Hasenkampf, a biology professor and director of the Centre for Teaching & Learning at U of T Scarborough, the best gestures are the personal visits – "in which a student comes by to say what he or she's going to do after graduation and tell me how I influenced him or her." Maybe the gifts that you can't hold in your hands are the most tangible.

– Susan Pedwell

|| ☞ Did you give an unusual gift to a great prof? Submit your story to uoft.magazine@utoronto.ca.

PHOTO: DANIEL EHRENWORTH

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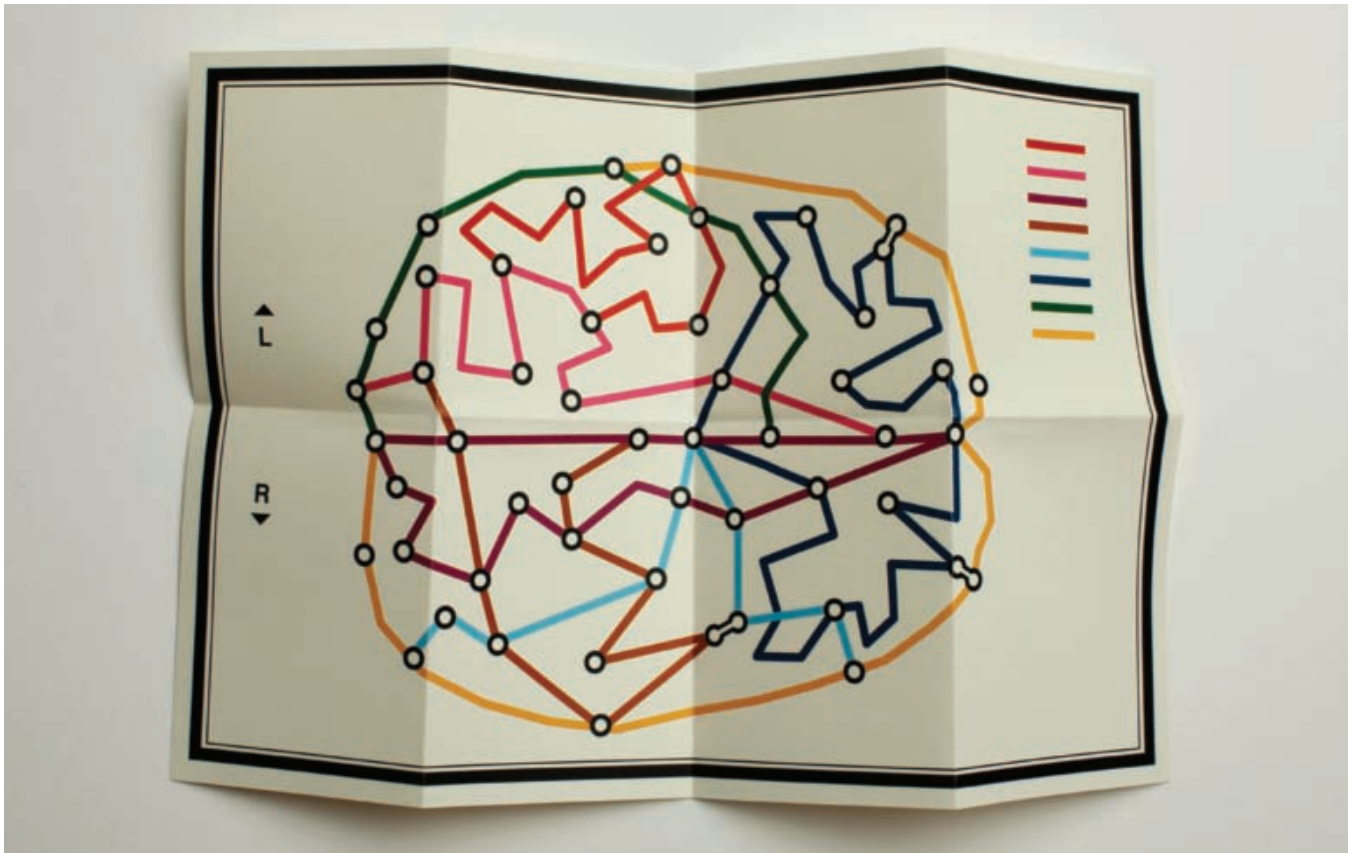
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Leading Edge



Mapping the Mind

Ambitious 10-year project will create a detailed electronic “atlas” of the brain

A 76-year-old woman has a stroke that leaves her unable to speak. Weeks later, when she begins to talk again, she runs her words together so quickly that no one can understand her. More than a year goes by before her speech returns to normal. After that, it's difficult to tell she's ever had a problem.

Over time, her brain recovered – but how? And could that

recovery have been hastened?

Randy McIntosh, a psychology professor at U of T and the director of the Rotman Research Institute, is collaborating on the development of a virtual brain that promises to someday change the way patients with brain injuries are treated. The ultimate hope is that patients such as the woman mentioned – my grandmother, circa 1992 – would have the details of >>>

>> their brain damage gleaned from scans and plugged into the virtual brain. Then, with luck, a recovery plan could be worked out.

The virtual brain will essentially be an electronic atlas of all the functional networks in the human brain, says McIntosh, who is also vice-president of research at the Baycrest health sciences centre. Someday, it will allow doctors to model not only what is injured and causing knock-on effects in other areas of the brain, but also what is left unharmed – and what options for recovery are still available. In other words, if you can't get from point A to point B the usual way, what back roads could be used? "It's a laboratory to test for possible ways of getting the brain to rewire itself," says McIntosh.

Stroke is only the beginning. McIntosh is interested in better understanding the brain's functions in order to ameliorate the effects of everything from Parkinson's and Alzheimer's to schizophrenia and memory problems.

The human brain is a hugely complex organ, so building a virtual facsimile is no small task. McIntosh expects it will take the consortium about 10 years and close to \$20 million before the job is done. They are in year five.

The team started by sketching regions and connections within the brain using existing data, mostly from human brain scans. Then they used functional MRI, which shows the brain in action, to verify that areas worked together the way they thought. The MRI scans all came from healthy people of various ages. It took three years just to model a human brain at rest. Then last year, the team published a paper that showed how they could use the virtual brain to model damage from strokes and other trauma.

Like the Human Genome Project, the virtual brain database will contain structural and functional information that can be used by all. But rather than simply cataloguing the brain, McIntosh wants to really understand human brain dynamics. "Having a virtual brain that grows old, gets damaged and tries to recover really changes the focus from the bad things that come from aging and brain damage to how we can maximize the good parts," he says.

– Alison Motluk



The Dark Master Caravaggio rebelled against dogma and received wisdom. Is that why we like him so much?

FOR MUCH OF THE 20TH CENTURY, Michelangelo held sway as the darling of the academic art world. No artist from the early modern era had been the subject of more books, catalogues and scholarly papers than the man who painted the Sistine Chapel and sculpted the iconic David.

But according to research by Philip Sohm, a U of T art history professor, Michelangelo was knocked from his perch atop the Italian art charts in the 1980s. The challenger: the rebellious genius Caravaggio.

Caravaggio, a realist painter who lived at the end of the 16th century, is known for his intensely dramatic works featuring violent struggles, torture and death. In life, he was a notorious brawler who once killed a man, possibly by accident, and spent a good amount of time fleeing authorities.

Sohm speculates that Caravaggio's growing popularity reflects a shift in contemporary views about religion, diversity and authority. "Caravaggio embraced humanity in all of its facets, including its more degraded ones," says Sohm. "He rebelled against dogma and received wisdom."

Michelangelo's relative decline is more difficult to explain. Sohm suggests that scholars may simply have exhausted topics about the artist, who was once called "divine" and was equally accomplished in painting, sculpture and architecture. "Any art historian who wants to work on Michelangelo faces a wall of books and articles that must be read before advancing one's own views," he says. "The effort is formidable."

In a secular era in which feminism has challenged gender biases, and environmental concerns are ascendant, Michelangelo – who painted for the pope and rejected nature – may simply have fallen out of favour. "After 1968, more people began to question ideas of progress, authority and institutionalized religions," says Sohm. "Michelangelo no longer seems as divine as he once did." – Scott Anderson



The Big Idea

Ending It All We run our lives as we wish. Why can't we have a say in our own death?

CANADIAN LAWS AND MEDICAL ETHICS prohibit a doctor from directly causing the death of a patient, or from helping the patient to commit suicide. But philosophy professor Wayne Sumner believes those ethical standards need rethinking and the laws need to be changed.

"If you face intolerable end-of-life suffering that can't be dealt with any other way, and you want a doctor to administer a lethal injection, and the doctor is willing, I don't think the state has any right to block that," he says.

Sumner, 69, is writing a book on what he refers to as "assisted death," which is due out from Oxford University Press next year. He says he became interested in the subject a few years ago while teaching an undergraduate bioethics

course. "Probably it also has something to do with getting closer to the end and wondering how that will go," he says.

Sumner likely isn't the only one thinking about the ethics of assisted death. With the oldest baby boomers approaching 65, more will face their own mortality in the not-distant future. As they do, Sumner thinks they will pressure the government to change the laws. "They've been used to running their own lives. I think a lot of them will want some degree of control over the last days of their lives as well," he says.

In his book, Sumner will argue for liberalizing laws governing medically assisted death. Generally, he says, it is wrong to kill someone, because it deprives that person of something of value. When the life being lived is no longer of value, but a source of extreme suffering, then helping someone end it, or ending it through euthanasia, is not unethical. Although many of the decisions would be difficult, Sumner says doctors already withhold treatment from children born with severe handicaps and from "brain dead" patients.

The current legal situation is ethically incoherent, he notes. Under some circumstances doctors are allowed to withdraw life support by turning off a respirator, for example. They can also hasten death by providing pain relief drugs, but only as long as hastening death isn't the effect that's intended. Sumner believes the laws should clarify when and how a doctor can assist a patient in dying.

Some argue that allowing assisted death at all leads to a slippery slope. McGill University law professor and ethicist Margaret Somerville writes that ending the prohibition against intentional killing would cause societal harm: "To legalize euthanasia would damage important societal values and symbols that uphold respect for human life." But Sumner says that the same objection was made to legalizing abortion, and yet we continue to respect life. He points out, for instance, that the murder rate continues to drop.

"Legalizing assisted death responds to a real and immediate need on the part of those who are experiencing needless suffering at the end of life and it is simply cruel to deny them this relief on the basis of nothing more than vague speculation," Sumner says. — Kurt Kleiner

ILLUSTRATION: GRAHAM ROUMIEU

Lingo

Mumblecore



Filmmakers have worked outside of Hollywood studios almost since the beginning, but it wasn't until the early 1990s, with the success of Quentin Tarantino's *Reservoir Dogs* and Steven Soderbergh's *Sex, Lies and Videotape*, that the notion of "American independent cinema" gained visibility and cachet.

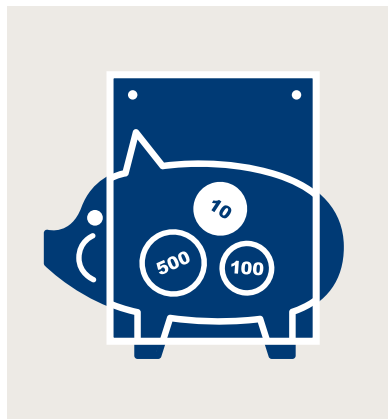
Now that Tarantino and Soderbergh have graduated to the big leagues, it's tempting to think that indie cinema's moment has passed. Not at all, says

U of T film professor Corinn Columpar. A new generation of directors is shooting on digital cameras and distributing their work on the Internet for a tiny fraction of what studio productions cost. Their work has been dubbed "mumblecore" — a reference to the films' often improvised scripts and muted emotions. Andrew Bujalski's *Funny Ha Ha* (2002) was the first; Lynn Shelton's *Hump Day* (2009) is a more recent example of the genre.

Prototype

Cheaper Digital X-Rays

Physicist John Rowlands has invented a way to deliver high-quality X-rays at a fraction of the regular cost



DOCTORS AROUND THE WORLD rely on X-rays to peer inside their patients. Modern digital X-ray machines use a large flat-panel detector, and can produce an accurate, detailed image almost instantaneously – but they’re also expensive, running anywhere from \$100,000 to \$200,000; in developing countries, the costs can be prohibitive. But physicist John Rowlands believes he can make a machine that will deliver equally reliable results at one-tenth to one-fifth of the cost.

Rowlands is a professor in the departments of radiation oncology, medical biophysics and medical imaging at U of T, and works in the imaging research department at the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. He has been developing a device known as an “X-ray light valve,” which takes advantage of a new technique for recording X-rays. In a standard machine, the X-rays interact with phosphors on a screen to produce an image; in Rowlands’ device, they interact with a photoconductor placed adjacent to a layer of liquid-crystal selenium. When X-rays strike the photoconductor, they create electrical charges – which then collect on the surface of the selenium cell to produce an image. The picture can then be scanned with a conventional optical scanner (similar to those found in photocopiers), and saved to a computer if desired. The resulting image is just as sharp as that produced by a standard machine, Rowlands says.

Until recently, X-ray images were recorded on light-sensitive film that had to be chemically developed; as with so many other types of imaging, digital X-ray systems are quickly replacing these older machines, allowing for instant results and the ease of sharing, enhancing and storing the resulting images.

In Rowlands’ device, the key to the reduced cost is that each of the components of the valve device is already widely manufactured for other applications. Although the first market for the device would be North America, he would follow this closely with Asia and India, he says.

Rowlands, who has been working on his idea with several colleagues for much of the last decade, currently has a prototype with a selenium cell measuring about 10 sq. cm; any device used in medical diagnostics would have to be much bigger, but he says the technology is “scalable.” That is, a larger detector would merely involve a larger cell, without any new science. He says he already has a company backing the development of the device for commercial use, though that is still a few years away. – *Dan Falk*

Findings



Schools Get an “A”

Public satisfaction with Ontario’s education system is the highest in 30 years, according to a recent survey by U of T’s Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE).

The survey, of 1,001 Ontario adults, found that 63 per cent were “very” or “somewhat satisfied” with their local school, and 62 per cent were willing to pay higher taxes to support greater funding for schools at all levels. However, the survey also found little support for government funding of faith-based schools or the creation of Africentric alternative schools.

A large majority of respondents support province-wide testing at the elementary and secondary levels, though most want teachers’ assessments, not provincial test results, to determine high school students’ grades. Most respondents also believe that some form of post-secondary education is now needed to “get along” in society.



Healthy Chocolate

Eating chocolate may lower the risk of having a stroke, according to an analysis by Dr. Gustavo Saposnik and Dr. Joel Ray, professors in U of T’s department of medicine,

and Sarah Sahib, of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. Chocolate may also reduce the risk of death following a stroke.

The researchers reviewed 88 studies and analyzed three that provided specific information on chocolate and stroke. One study found that people who ate a single serving of chocolate a week were 22 per cent less likely to have a stroke than people who ate no chocolate. A second study found that people who ate 50 grams of chocolate once a week were 46 per cent less likely to die following a stroke than people who did not eat chocolate. A third study found no link between eating chocolate and risk of stroke or death.

Dr. Saposnik called the preliminary findings interesting but added, “Further studies are needed to determine the association between the risk of a stroke and chocolate consumption. Knowing the quantities and type of chocolate, including its precise composition, is vital.”

|| Read more about the latest U of T research at www.magazine.utoronto.ca/category/blogs/eureka.

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Q&A

Ask an Expert

Dr. James Cantor Sex Addiction



Is “sex addiction” an excuse for philandering or is it a mental illness? The jury is out, but perhaps not for long. The American Psychiatric Association is proposing to include “hypersexual disorder” in the next edition of its *Diagnostic and Statistical*

Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). **Dr. James Cantor** is head of the Law and Mental Health Research Section at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and a professor at U of T. He spoke recently with *U of T Magazine* editor **Scott Anderson** about what “sex addiction” is and is not.

What is the difference between someone who enjoys having a lot of sex and someone who is “sexually addicted”?

Some people have enormous amounts of sex. Most of them are fine with it. People start looking for help when they – or when people in their lives – think their behaviour is causing a problem. When they’re failing classes, being put on probation at work or causing family members to suffer is when we would start saying the person has a disorder.

Why is hypersexuality being introduced into the DSM now?

Clinicians have been talking about an entity that they call sexual addiction, among other terms, for many years. But it’s difficult to include it in a book that is supposed to be based on science when there hasn’t much been scientific research on it. The consensus now seems to be, “We’re convinced there is a discrete entity and we need to pick a term for it.”

Some people describe hypersexuality as an addiction, others as a compulsion. What’s your stance?

In my experience, people tend to design their theories based

on what they’re used to rather than from careful consideration of the data. Those who treat addictions tend to interpret this problem as an addiction, and those whose theoretical orientation is about compulsions see this as a compulsion problem.

Do you think sex addiction should be defined as a mental illness?

Yes. If not now, then certainly in time, though I don’t know precisely what form this would take. My intuition is that there are actually several different disorders.

What percentage of the population does this disorder affect?

It depends how you define it. Different definitions lead to relatively larger or fewer people being captured into it. If someone attempts such a survey no doubt people will argue over the result because they disagree with how the survey defines the disorder.

For example, somebody in the gay community could be having sex with dozens of people a year. It would be perfectly typical among that person’s peer group and would have no negative effect on his or any other person’s life.

If a married heterosexual male does the same thing, we have a very different set of expectations of what’s typical. So he could be having the same amount of sex with the same number of partners but for him there might be a problem. A survey for *amount* of sex doesn’t always capture what’s going on.

Some people have suggested that behaviours once considered “character flaws” are now being defined as mental illnesses. What do you think of that observation?

I’ve seen a lot of people use the term “sex addiction” for a *lot* of different reasons. It’s very easy to imagine that someone would use the term to gain public or media sympathy, but this is hardly the only diagnosis that this happens to. People blame many different kinds of moral failings on many different things. But we also want to be very careful and not make the opposite mistake. Just because there are people who abuse the term and the concept, doesn’t mean that there’s no such thing.

|| ☞ Read a longer version of this Q&A at www.magazine.utoronto.ca.

Urban Living

These unusual looking buildings don't exist – yet. They are designs by U of T architecture grads Lingchen Liu and Chenglong Wang that were published recently in a special university edition of *Mas Context*, an international journal about urban issues.

Aware that millions of people migrate to cities each year, Liu and Wang grew interested in new kinds of housing that could fill in a city's "leftover" sites. Their designs would increase a city's density without requiring new sites for traditional "block" buildings.

The design on the left imagines apartments forming a canopy over a public space. The one on the right proposes to clad an existing office building with a new "layer" of housing that climbs like ivy up the building's exterior. "A great diversity of unit sizes and configurations is an interesting result of this innovation," says Liu, who, along with Wang, graduated from the Daniels Faculty in 2006. They both now work in China.

In its university edition, *Mas Context* included 50 design projects from students from around the world. – *Scott Anderson*



Paying for Prescriptions An idea for managing the fastest-growing segment of health-care costs

AS POLICY-MAKERS GRAPPLE with the formidable question of how to finance health care once the baby boom generation begins to retire, economist Mark Stabile, a professor at the Joseph Rotman School of Management, is looking to Canada's pension system for solutions.

In a new study from Montreal's Institute for Research on Public Policy, Stabile and Jacqueline Greenblatt, a federal policy analyst, are proposing a "pre-funded" approach to pharmacare, as opposed to the current pay-as-you-go system.

Their idea is to create an independently administered pooled fund, modelled on the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, which will invest the proceeds from a proposed mandatory contribution from individuals earmarked specifically for pharmacare costs.

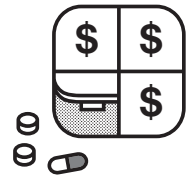
The use of prescription drugs is growing rapidly because of advances in medical science and the higher prevalence of

chronic conditions in an aging population.

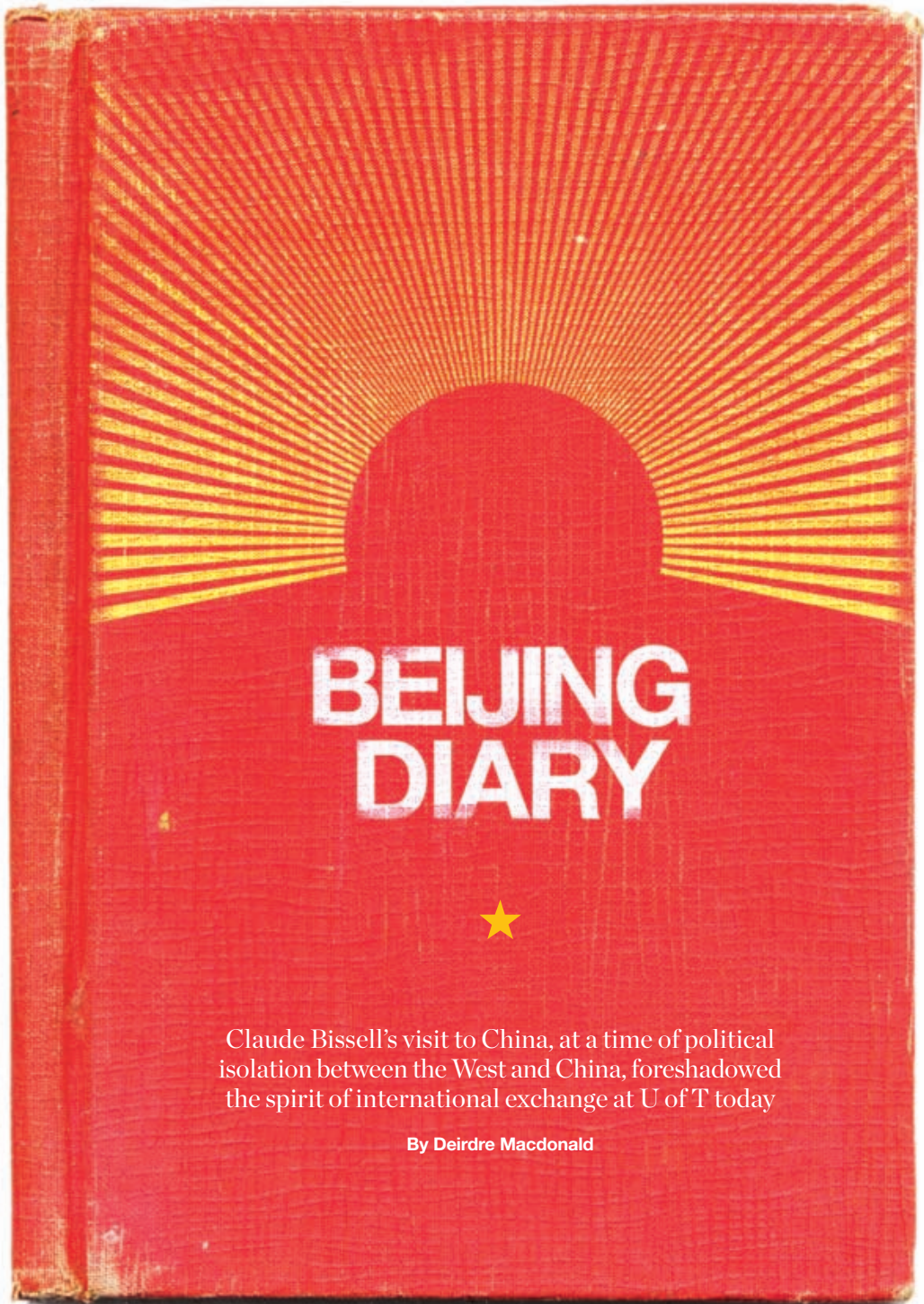
At present, government-purchased prescription drugs (those administered in hospitals or through plans for groups such as the elderly or low-income earners) are paid for through general tax revenues collected by both Ottawa and the provinces.

Stabile, who is also the director of U of T's School of Public Policy and Governance, is suggesting a system of capped monthly contributions geared to income that are collected through payroll deductions. "As individuals retire," he says, "their cohort would have this fund available to them."

He's not aware of any other government that's taken this approach, but argues that alternatives must be considered. "Whether we pre-fund drugs or we don't, we'll have to have this conversation over the next decade," says Stabile. "How are we going to pay?" – *John Lorinc*







BEIJING DIARY



Claude Bissell's visit to China, at a time of political isolation between the West and China, foreshadowed the spirit of international exchange at U of T today

By Deirdre Macdonald

In the spring of 1962, U of T president Claude Bissell travelled to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of the Chinese government. His visit took place eight years before Canada established diplomatic relations with China. To most Canadians, including Bissell, China was a mystery – a communist country that seemed to have little in common with the nations of the West. Bissell, who was also chair of the Canada Council, recorded his observations in a diary that has never been published. His writings shed light on the earliest days of U of T's now flourishing relationship with a resurgent China.

★ **ON APRIL 16, 1962, CLAUDE BISSELL** did something few Canadians before him had done: he walked several metres across the Luohu Bridge, from the British colony of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China. The border station was quiet that day and, after spending almost a week as a guest of the University of Hong Kong and some tense moments waiting to get his visa approved, Bissell was in high spirits to have arrived in China at last.

Members of the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries greeted Bissell at the bridge and ushered him into the nearby train station to pass through customs. To Bissell's surprise, the customs officer waved him through, noting that university presidents didn't need to undergo the usual border checks.

With this unexpected welcome, Bissell began a three-week visit to China that would take him to universities, factories and cultural organizations in Guangzhou, Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou and Wuhan. At times, Bissell admits feeling overwhelmed and unprepared. He regretted not being able to speak Mandarin or Cantonese and knowing little of China's art and history. What he did know, he had gleaned mostly from the Royal Ontario Museum's well-established Chinese collection and from helping chair Bill Dobson build U of T's department of East Asian Studies. He also drew from conversations with a friend and U of T colleague, the geophysicist J. Tuzo Wilson, who had visited China a few years earlier.

Aware that his visit would be brief and carefully scripted by his Chinese hosts, Bissell warns his diary readers of the "essential fragility" of his observations. He knew China had suffered a catastrophic famine and was engaged in a border conflict with India, and that relations between China and Russia were strained. As well, since 1949, China had claimed Taiwan as part of the People's Republic, resulting in ongoing tensions with the West.

In his diary, Bissell chose to minimize political commentary and focus on his immediate impressions. He writes, "I tried, in a small way, to make a study of human communication. This, it seems to me, is all the untutored visitor to China can hope to do."

Bob Rae, who came to know Bissell in the 1960s when Rae was a student leader lobbying for reforms to university gover-



Bissell (third from left) views downtown Shanghai with Geoff Andrew, executive assistant to the president of UBC, and their Chinese hosts. The group spent three days in Shanghai

nance, recalls that Bissell was by no means politically radical. "Claude didn't think much about partisan politics or power politics," remembers Rae, now a Liberal MP and foreign affairs critic. "He wouldn't have cared if someone called him politically soft, or even a communist."

Bissell found his visit to China both exhilarating and rigorous; his time in Beijing was particularly intense. Shortly after arriving, he experienced an attack of melancholy and reflected, "What was I doing here, going through elaborate polite rituals, not really getting close to a strange society? The key is language – not only for communication but to make you feel a part of the life around you." Fortunately, Bissell had sympathetic mentors in Tu Nan, his translator, and Chen Ta-Yuan, a companionable government spokesman.

Over eight days, Bissell visited Peking University, Tsinghua University and the Institute of Foreign Languages (now the Foreign Studies University), three of the country's top



institutions of higher learning in Beijing. Bissell was amazed by the number of universities in the city, each specializing in one discipline, such as medicine or aerophysics. In the Chinese post-secondary system, Bissell learned, the country's 60 top universities selected the best students from across the country; less able students attended provincial institutions.

During his visit to the Federation of Artists and Dramatists in Beijing, Bissell debated the role of humour and satire in a socialist state with Hsia Yen, a prominent dramatist, and Yeh Chun-Chien, the editor of the periodical *Chinese Literature*. Later, at the Research Institute of International Relations, he discussed a pamphlet by a leading Chinese literary theoretician. The pamphlet disturbed Bissell because it asserted that "in a world where class antagonism exists...there can be no 'love of mankind' which transcends classes." To Bissell, this seemed to reject cultural exchange as a way of fostering international understanding. The institute's directors denied this

interpretation but Bissell remained unconvinced. Following the discussion, Bissell concluded that "whether or not the Chinese theoretically accept coexistence, they cannot accept it at the present time with contemporary America."

At Beijing's Institute of Foreign Languages, Bissell was in his element. Professor Wang Tso-Liang, who was the head of the English department and had completed his bachelor of literature at Oxford, toured Bissell through the English book holdings and chatted with him about the Alexander Lectures – the annual lectures in literature founded in 1928 at U of T's University College. Bissell expressed surprise that Wang knew about the talks, and Wang replied that they were "world famous."

Professor Wang seemed to know less about Canada's writers, however. Bissell was distressed to see that the only Canadian author represented in the library was Dyson Carter, an engineer, journalist, novelist and communist. Bissell



During his visit to the Federation of Artists and Dramatists in Beijing, Bissell discussed the role of humour and satire in a socialist state with dramatist Hsia Yen

promised to send Wang books from U of T Press, as well as a wider selection of Canadian prose and poetry.

Most visits with university and factory officials began with a formal welcome that featured a dramatic comparison of pre- and post-1949 China, emphasizing the superior working and living conditions that had been achieved since the Communist Party assumed power. In his diary, Bissell recorded statistics that the registrar-general of the Ministry of Education provided to illustrate China's progress in education. In 1962, 80 per cent of school-aged children in China attended school. Prior to 1949, the figure was 20 per cent. In higher education, student enrolment had increased from 117,000 to 810,000 in the same time period. By the early 1960s, workers and peasants, formerly excluded from universities, constituted half of the student population, and women made up 23 per cent.

Bissell's visit was not entirely work related. He attended concerts and toured museums and cultural landmarks such as the Forbidden City, the Great Hall of the People, the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs. These visits provided opportunities for casual conversation and laughter with his hosts – with Tu, in particular. One evening in Beijing, they attended a performance by a Shanghai opera company. Tu tried to brief Bissell about what he was seeing. “Mr. Tu explained apologetically that the dialect was unfamiliar to him, but that he believed the story was about a rape,” writes Bissell. “I had some difficulty in reconciling the action on the stage (which was clearly about

the engagement of a beautiful young girl to an infant) with Mr. Tu's melodramatic interpretation. He finally confessed laughingly that he was mistaken, and that he had another opera in mind.”

During a daytime outing to see the Great Wall and Ming Tombs, Bissell and Tu discussed the standoff between China and the United States. Tu asked, “Is America really aggressive?” Bissell replied that the high standard of living in the U.S. encouraged a degree of aggression. Tu countered that a high living standard should surely *discourage* aggression. Bissell commented that this was not always historically true.

A highlight of Bissell's stay in Beijing was a visit to the Peking Opera's training school, followed by an evening performance starring the legendary actress Tu Ching-Fang. Bissell had met Tu and seen her perform 18 months earlier at the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto (he had been invited to China by a cultural delegation accompanying the opera).

In Beijing, Tu portrayed a character of great subtlety in a story that, as Bissell wrote, “involved love at first sight, mistaken identity, complication and resolution.” Afterward, Bissell went backstage to compliment the performers who had visited Canada and who were genuinely moved to see Bissell in China.

Before Bissell left for China, Walter Gordon, the politician and Canadian nationalist, suggested that Bissell contact Isabel and David Crook, who were teaching English at the Institute of Foreign Languages. Born in China to missionary parents, Isabel had graduated from U of T's Victoria College in 1936. She went on to postgraduate work in anthropology at the London School of Economics. After the war, she returned to China with her husband, David; by then, both were members of the Communist Party. They were the first foreign full-time teachers on staff and together wrote *Revolution in a Chinese Village: Ten Mile Inn*, a study of historic land reform in North China during the late 1940s and early 1950s. In 2008, Victoria College presented Isabel Crook with an honorary degree for her work as an educator, activist and author.

Over lunch at the Crooks' flat, Bissell mentioned U of T medical graduate Dr. Norman Bethune, who was revered in China for his heroic work performing surgery at the battlefield during the Second Sino-Japanese War. The Crooks said that every year, millions of Chinese children read about this great Canadian in their textbooks. Bissell told the Crooks about his first dinner in Guangzhou, where he had proudly announced

“The Great Good Place”

U of T's eighth president recognized the importance of the university's global reputation



Claude Bissell oversaw a period of unprecedented growth at the University of Toronto

Born in Meaford, Ontario, in 1916, Claude Bissell was the youngest of nine children in a family of modest means. At 16, he arrived at U of T's University College, a shy scholarship student eager to study English and history. In *Halfway Up Parnassus*, his personal account of the University of Toronto between 1932 and 1971, he describes how news of his U of T scholarship came by a telephone call from a newspaper reporter. In retrospect, he says it was “one of the great, dazzling moments of my life.”

In 1936, Bissell entered U of T's graduate school, earning his master's in English. He completed his PhD at Cornell University in Ithaca,

New York, returning to U of T in 1941 to become an English lecturer at University College.

His passion was Victorian literature and the work of Irish dramatist George Bernard Shaw. From the early 1950s, he also wrote and spoke widely about the novelists, poets, scholars and public figures whose work helped define Canada's identity. He believed – well ahead of his time – that literature had the power to shape national ideals and attitudes.

As Bissell headed toward a sterling academic career, the Second World War broke out. He enlisted in 1942, serving with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada. He returned to U of T's University College in 1947 as an English professor; he was accompanied by his wife, Christina Gray of Scotland. They quickly became a presence on campus – he the reserved scholar, she the high-spirited extrovert. Their first home was the Dean's House at University College (now Bissell House).

In the early 1950s, Bissell began a rapid ascent in university administration. From 1956 to '58 he served as president of Ottawa's Carleton University, where he founded the Institute of Canadian Studies. Then in 1958 he was appointed U of T's eighth president. He held the position for 13 years, save a one-year leave to be the first William Lyon Mackenzie King Visiting Professor of Canadian Studies at Harvard.

Explaining his decision to leave Carleton, Bissell writes in *Halfway Up Parnassus*, “The University of Toronto was still, in my mind, the great good place. It had given me some idea of what a civilized, humane society could be. It was certainly the strongest Canadian university by the only criterion that mattered – the international distinction of the academic staff. With a number of changes it could easily become a great university.”

Bissell's presidency was a period of rapid change at U of T: the Mississauga and Scarborough campuses opened, new colleges and faculties were founded, the graduate school expanded, and enrolment more than doubled. U of T's international stature grew.

Bissell passed away on June 21, 2000.

to the government official sitting next to him that Bethune was a University of Toronto graduate. The official was clearly impressed, though Bissell felt chastened when the man inquired if U of T had built a memorial to Bethune. (Today, the university and the City of Toronto are collaborating with former governor general Adrienne Clarkson on plans for a memorial to honour Bethune's association with U of T and his role as one of Canada's great humanitarians. Plans are also underway at U of T to establish a travelling fellowship in surgery in Bethune's name.)

After leaving Beijing to spend several days in Shanghai and Hangzhou, Bissell returned to the capital to see the May Day celebrations and to relax. Unknown to him, his hosts had arranged a busy program.

Following a state banquet, Bissell talked privately with Chen Yi, China's vice-premier and minister of foreign affairs. During the 40-minute conversation, Chen told Bissell that China was anxious to enter into a diplomatic relationship with Europe and the U.S. He pointed out that the Russian political and economic model was not totally suitable for

China, and that his country needed both to emulate Russia and adopt Western technology. They discussed the possibility of academic exchanges.

On the evening of May 1, Bissell left for Tiananmen Square to see the fireworks. “We had tickets that admitted us to the balcony of Tiananmen, the gate at the entrance of the Forbidden City that overlooks the square,” writes Bissell. “A vast crowd was assembled; it filled the square and stretched down the main avenue on either side – well over half a million people gathered in one place, almost the total population of the City of Toronto. Here was a superb illustration of the Chinese genius for creating order where chaos would ordinarily prevail: the crowd...seemed to settle into a pattern, with here and there a space left free where dancers in costume could perform. When darkness came, around 9 p.m., the fireworks began. They rose from all sides of the square, soared into the sky and then converged in bursting stars and brilliant trails of colour over the centre of the crowd.”

Suddenly the people around him jumped to their feet. Premier Zhou Enlai approached and, on hearing that Bissell was



Bissell (second row, far left) with Mao Zedong and other dignitaries on May 1 at the rostrum of Tiananmen gate in Beijing

Canadian, said he hoped Bissell's visit would further the cause of peace. Tu, the translator, then asked Bissell to move with a few others into a covered area. Bissell writes: "Towards the centre there was a small crowd and a suggestion of excitement, and I caught a glimpse of a broad forehead and lank, black hair. The white effigy of a thousand foyers had suddenly become flesh and blood." Mao Zedong, chairman of the People's Republic of China, and key government officials greeted Bissell with a handshake; the word "Canada" was repeated with enthusiasm.

Afterward, Bissell asked Tu if he was among the first Canadians to meet Mao. Tu thought he was, with the exception of members of the Canadian Communist Party.

On Bissell's last day in China, as he was travelling back from Guangzhou to the Hong Kong border, he watched his companion, Chen, quietly writing in his notebook. He assumed Chen was compiling a fresh list of statistics to share. Suddenly Chen looked up, smiled and spoke. Tu translated: "Mr. Chen has just composed a poem in your honour." Before they reached the border, Bissell had composed several verses in reply. Back in Canada, Bissell's brother, Keith Bissell, a composer and arranger, set the verses to music, which were later published as "Two Songs of Farewell." Bissell's diary concludes, "For the time being, politics and human nature were blessedly separated."

On Friday, May 11, Bissell arrived back in Toronto after spending a week in Thailand. The following day, *CBC Radio*,

the *Toronto Daily Star*, the *Toronto Telegram* and the *Globe and Mail* interviewed him. While in Hong Kong, he had already spoken with Frederick Nossal, who had briefly headed the *Globe's* Beijing bureau. Nossal's negative article, "China in Dire Need of Foreign Aid, U of T President's View After 3-Week Tour - Finds Higher Education Standard Poor," disturbed Bissell because he felt that Nossal unfairly conveyed his impressions. Later in the fall, the *Washington Post* published a buoyant piece by Bissell titled "China Makes Big Strides in Education." The Christmas 1962 issue of the *Varsity Graduate* featured a wide-ranging interview with Bissell for the U of T community.

Bissell's visit to China, which he undertook at a time of political isolation between the West and China, foreshadowed the spirit of international exchange at U of T today. Bissell was aware that academic and cultural partnerships between U of T and China could only flourish if Canada and China established diplomatic relations. And yet for Bissell, "Two Songs of Farewell" symbolized not an end but a beginning.

Deirdre Macdonald (BA 1969 UC) is Claude and Christine Bissell's daughter. She is a freelance writer on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia.

|| ☪ Read Robert Fulford's tribute to Claude Bissell, written after Bissell passed away in 2000, at www.robertfulford.com/ClaudeBissell.html.

Claude Bissell on Campus

Claude Bissell's final term as U of T president ended almost 40 years ago, but his remarkable contribution as a scholar, administrator and leader is recognized on the St. George Campus today. The map indicates the locations of buildings, portraits and other tributes honouring Bissell's legacy



1. Claude T. Bissell Building

The Claude T. Bissell Building houses U of T's Faculty of Information. The university named this building after Bissell to honour his contributions to U of T as a student, scholar and leader.



2. Outside Roberts Library

A bench dedicated to Bissell acknowledges his work toward establishing Roberts Library and the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. Both opened in 1973. The Thomas Fisher Library houses the Bissell collection of British authors.



3. Massey College

Fred Savard's portrait of Bissell hangs in the foyer of the St. Catherine's Chapel at Massey College along with portraits of Robertson Davies and Vincent Massey. Bissell worked closely with Massey as plans for the college evolved, and appointed Robertson Davies the college's first master.



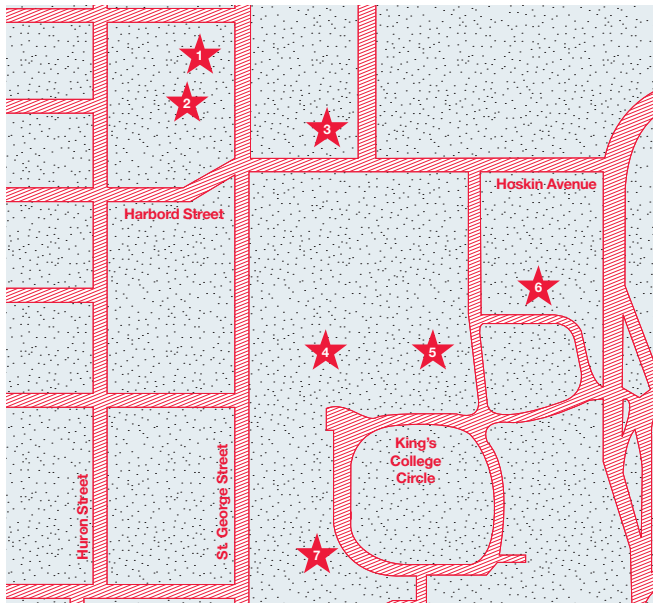
4. Bissell House

Bissell House was the first home for Claude and Christine and daughter Deirdre. They lived there when Bissell served as Dean of Men at University College from 1946 to 1956.



5. University College

A stone head of Bissell by artist Palmo Dolzelli looks out from the north wall of UC's Laidlaw Library.



6. Hart House

Claude and Christine Bissell's names are engraved on a stone in the Hart House courtyard. Celebratory events for Bissell's 1958 installation as president took place here, and in 1971 the university held a farewell reception for the Bissells in the Great Hall.



7. Simcoe Hall

Cleve Horne's portrait of Bissell hangs just outside the president's office in Simcoe Hall.



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| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasures of Southern Africa | <input type="checkbox"/> Provence & Rhone River | <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Danube Passage |
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May 6–14
Alumni College in Provence & Rhone River (France)
\$2395 US + air



September 19–28
Alumni College in Spain
\$2395 US + air



Jan 19–29
Antiquities of the Nile Valley & the Red Sea (Egypt & Jordan)
from \$4595 US + air



May 11–22
Grand Journey Turkey
\$3395 US + air



Sept 26–Oct 4
Island Life in Ancient Greece & Turkey
from \$2795 US + air



Feb 8–22
Treasures of Southern Africa (South Africa & Zambia)
\$5995 US + air



May 20–29
Chianti & the Italian Riviera (Italy)
\$2795 US + air



October 1–26
Grand Journey around the World
\$29,995 US incl. bus.class air



Feb 13–25
Borneo (Malaysia)
\$5995 incl. air



June 7–15
Alumni College in Italy's Lake District
\$2595 US + air



October 18–23
Insider's Perspective Chicago (USA)
\$1895 US + air



Feb 23–Mar 5
Cruise Costa Rica
from \$3695 US + air



June 7–16
Ireland
\$3295 + air



Oct 21–Nov 3
India
\$4595 + air



March 1–12
Legends of the Nile (Egypt)
from \$3995 US + air



June 9–20
Cruising the Baltic Sea (Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Poland)
from \$6995 US + air



November 18–27
Alumni College in Sicily (Italy)
\$2695 US + air



March 5–14
Alumni College in Israel
\$2595 US + air



June 20–28
Village Life along the Dalmatian Coast (Italy, Croatia, Montenegro)
from \$2995 US + air

GREAT ADVENTURE



March 15–Mar 22
Cruise the Lesser Antilles
from \$2798 US incl air



July 9–17
Iceland
from \$3695 US + air



August 15–29
Canada's Northwest Passage
from \$7395 + air



April 10–18
River Life Dutch Waterways (Holland & Belgium)
from \$2795 US + air



July 21–28
Cruise Alaska's Inside Passage (USA)
from \$3558 US incl. air

GREAT CAUSE



April 15–23
Alumni College in Saxony on the Elbe River (Germany)
from \$2495 US + air



August 15–24
Newfoundland (Canada)
\$2995 + air



February 11–22
Build a School in Kenya
\$4985 US + air



April 15–26
Japan
\$7599 incl. air



September 8–18
Villages & Vineyards of France
\$3695 US + air

Prices are in Canadian dollars (unless otherwise noted), per person and based on double occupancy. Dates and prices are subject to change. Individual tour brochures are available approximately 4–6 months prior to departure.



April 19–28
Treasures of Morocco
\$2995 US + air



September 10–24
Grand Danube Passage (Germany to Greece)
from \$3695 US + air

More detailed information is available at www.alumnitravel.utoronto.ca

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Solar
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Composting



Saving
Energy



Urban
Farming





Urban
Farming



Saving
Energy



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Reducing
Paper Use



Composting

Blue and White and Green All Over

Whether it's reducing paper use or growing food on campus, students are leading the charge to make U of T more sustainable

STUDENTS AROUND THE WORLD are asking themselves: how green is my campus? If they go to U of T, the answer is “getting greener.” What’s most remarkable is that students themselves are leading the charge for sustainability.

Over the past decade, students have started, fostered and helped carry out programs as creative as they are helpful to the world around them – covering everything from organic waste collection to bicycle repair, and paper reduction to energy conservation. For the next generation, “it’s become clear that this isn’t a frill,” says Beth Savan, director of the St. George Campus Sustainability Office. “Sustainability is really core to the survival of the species, as well as the quality of life.”

Apart from the obvious benefit to forests, air and water, student-led projects are saving money for the university (research by the Sustainability Office shows that every dollar put into sustainability programs generates several dollars in savings). The projects also help participants form meaningful connections at school. These days, the easiest way to make friends and gain work experience may be at a community garden or a meeting about electricity use.

Naturally, students are ably abetted by staff, faculty and the university administration. “Other schools have recently climbed on the sustainability bandwagon, but there’s been a long-term commitment on the part of our facilities and services department to improving things,” says Savan, an environmental studies professor. As one example, she points to the school’s trigeneration turbine, which resulted in energy savings last year worth \$1.5 million. In fact, environmental measures of one type or another have been in place at the University of Toronto for some 35 years, and herbicides have been banned since 1994, when today’s students were toddlers.

Savan initiates and collaborates on many sustainability projects, and has employed recent graduates since her office’s inception in 2004. She also makes it easy for students to get involved through work-study programs and volunteer opportunities. “This office is a place where we can harness student enthusiasm, energy and ideas,” she says. “We’ve been like that from the start.”

In recent years, the Sustainability Office has also benefited from the input of students from outside the environmental studies realm. Aspiring economists, engineers and foresters have all left their footprints on the university’s ecological landscape. Students from a variety of disciplines have also shown a willingness to put their own money into programs: Bikechain, a bicycle repair and resource program, is funded by undergraduate student levies and donations. In 2008, it received a Bicycle-Friendly Business Award from the City of Toronto. Other measures, such as the campus-wide Eco-Challenge to reduce energy consumption, have also succeeded.

This year, the University of Toronto received an overall B grade from the Sustainable Endowments Institute, which annually evaluates universities on how well they’ve integrated

sustainable practices into campus life. The institute cited student involvement and administrative commitment as U of T’s major strengths in 2010. Savan says that in future, the school can raise its grade even higher by focusing on physical renovation. “I’m hoping that the buildings of the future will incorporate a sustainability component that they haven’t in the past,” she says. Savan needn’t worry: by cultivating a new generation of green-conscious citizens from all walks of life, she and her colleagues have ensured that the environment will figure prominently in decisions affecting the university for years to come.



Urban Farming

U of T students are creating their own version of the zero-mile diet

MANY ENVIRONMENTALISTS BELIEVE that locally grown food tastes better, reduces environmental strain and creates economic and social benefits for the community. That’s why a group devoted to campus agriculture is currently creating its own version of the zero-mile diet – proving good food can be grown just about anywhere.

In front of Hart House, the aesthetically minded Ornamental Garden shows that peppers, tomatoes and eggplants can be just as beautiful as flowers. The Galbraith Building is home to one of the city’s biggest rooftop gardens, a semi-hydroponic wonder. The Students’ Union Building has boasted a Food for All Equity Garden for eight years, supplying local food banks.

That’s not all. Hart House Farm in Caledon, Ontario, is home to orchards and a maple syrup operation, as well as an expanding variety of homegrown vegetables. And at the student-run plot at U of T Scarborough, local children are being brought in to learn how food grows. “One of the driving forces behind urban gardens is to reconnect people with their food systems,” says David Berliner, an environmental studies graduate who, until recently, managed the University of Toronto Campus Agriculture Project.

Education is one of the project’s most important objectives, says Berliner, looking out on the Kahonitake Kitikan garden situated on the east side of Hart House. Run in conjunction with First Nations House and the Native Students Association, the small plot abounds with, among other things, sage, cedar, sweetgrass and tobacco – the four traditional medicinal plants. “It provides a first introduction to aboriginal studies,” he says. “And what a great opportunity to do that right here on campus.”

The gardens also engage students in planning, tending and harvesting. Right now, most of the bounty is shared among campus chefs, food banks, volunteers and the students who run Hot Yam, a weekly vegan lunch collective. The project dovetails nicely with other initiatives around the university, such as Jaco Lokker's promotion of local food in his capacity as director of food services for the St. George Campus. Berliner has also established ties to urban growers, with whom he shares seeds (for ideas as well as plants). "We're all trying to scale up urban agriculture in this city, so that it's not just pockets of places," he says. "We really want to feed a substantial number of people."

The Campus Agriculture Project plans to grow food in a small plot near Robarts Library, with a view to testing the harvest for pollutants. "The group is looking at whether food in high traffic areas is contaminated," says Berliner. If not, "it could help make a public policy case to change the flower gardening this city does; boulevards could instead be used to grow food."

The potential for expansion seems limitless: Berliner is inspired by the example of growers in such congested urban areas as Detroit and New York. "They say, maybe we'll use a window or a rooftop. Or maybe the sides of buildings! What's really interesting about this in the broader sense is how we reimagine the built environment – how we reimagine cities and our relationship to food systems."



Saving Energy

A tiny sensor could yield big electricity savings

JAI INDER SANGHA may one day save his university a great deal of money – and it all started with a high school experiment in his native India.

Sangha, a second-year student in economics and statistics, was volunteering at U of T Mississauga's Environmental Affairs Office when a geography professor happened to stop by. "He talked about a glass hallway between two buildings where the lights stay on throughout the day," says Sangha. "I was shocked because I'd never noticed it."

Since the hallway (between the library and the Communication, Culture and Technology building) enjoys plenty of natural light, Sangha and his colleagues figured it didn't need artificial help during the day. In the midst of brainstorming, Sangha remembered an electronics project he'd worked on

years before – a light bulb that turned on in the dark, and shut off in the presence of sunlight. This type of photo sensor is widely used in outdoor lights, much less so within buildings. But it could be the perfect solution.

"We'll waste \$300 a year if those lights stay on, and if we can incorporate this in larger buildings, the savings will be even bigger," says Sangha.



Solar Power

Solar panels are giving U of T athletes something to cheer about

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PLAY SPORTS to know that athletes use a lot of hot water. After an intense workout, who wouldn't want a long, soothing shower to ease aching muscles?

Well, now a significant amount of the hot water used by U of T athletes will be heated by the sun.

Late last year, the university installed 100 solar collector panels on the roof of the Athletic Centre at Harbord Street and Spadina Avenue. The installation is the biggest of its kind in the Toronto area and possibly the largest system at a Canadian university.

The panels will supply nearly 25 per cent of the heat for the building's showers and laundry facilities during peak sunshine months, substantially reducing natural gas use – and consequently greenhouse gas emissions – throughout the year.

The initiative first took shape as a student project in 2006, when Ashley Taylor, an undergraduate in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, evaluated the feasibility of installing solar collector panels at the location. She initially imagined that the panels would heat the university's pool. "It resonated with me because I was a synchronized swimmer for seven years when I was growing up," she says. The concept later shifted to showers and laundry.

Now employed full time by the university's Sustainability Office, Taylor (BASC 2006) worked with the facilities and services division on the downtown campus to see the project through to completion. "It has been very fulfilling to see a simple research question become a reality," says Taylor. "It's a great example of how U of T can use the campus as a living lab, bridging research and operations."

Taylor says facilities and services is now working with a consultant to investigate using solar photovoltaics at U of T. – *Althea Blackburn Evans and Scott Anderson*



Reducing Paper Use

A simple change in habits could save thousands of trees a year

FOR MOST OF US, recycling paper has become automatic: we hurl those scrunched-up balls into the recycling bin and not the garbage can. But in doing so, are we really doing enough for the environment?

“Recycling requires energy, and it’s also associated with pollution,” says Elah Feder (MSc 2007), the co-ordinator of a major paper conservation effort at the St. George Campus. “So that’s something that we really want to emphasize – it’s reduce first, recycle after.”

At the Gerstein Science Information Centre, the printers now print on both sides of the page. “Just that will save up to 100,000 sheets a year,” marvels Isaac Muise, a fourth-year environment and resource management student who’s implementing the library component of the paper reduction program by trying out new ideas at Gerstein. “We’re also going to put instructions on photocopiers so that people can print double-sided, and set up paper reuse stations, which is kind of like a ‘take a penny, leave a penny’ situation.”

It’s not only the quantity but the quality of paper used at the university that’s being examined. Unfortunately, paper derived from sustainable means (instead of a virgin forest) often costs more – though Feder points out that savings from the effort to reduce paper use would make it affordable. “We’re challenging departments to cut their paper consumption by 50 per cent within the next two years,” she says, “and to purchase recycled paper with a sustainable certification wherever possible.”

Changing the culture of paper use is sometimes an uphill battle, Franklin admits. Many instructors will not accept double-sided essays, citing “pedagogical” reasons; essays submitted on scrap paper meet with even greater opposition.

Feder estimates that the U of T community uses some 100 million sheets of paper per year, and produces much unnecessary waste. Thanks in part to her efforts, the school has stopped ordering thousands of phone books it doesn’t need. But she says the aim is not to go completely paperless, since “there are impacts associated with electronics that we need to consider. We’re not saying eliminate paper: we’re saying eliminate waste.”



Composting

A residence group conjures up green living

THESE WIZARDS MAY NOT WORK MAGIC – but they can certainly make organic waste disappear.

For almost a decade, the Green Wizards have been a fixture in residence at U of T Scarborough. Roughly half the students participate in the wizards’ green bin collection program, which isn’t covered by the city. In addition to collecting compost, they ensure that all interested students receive a Good Food Box every two weeks, full of locally grown, seasonable produce. “They’re a committed and engaged group of students, and they’ve really done a lot to create awareness of green living in residence,” says Michelle Verbrugge, director of residences.

With four executive members and about 15 casual volunteers, the wizards are few in number but large in ambitions. In addition to the above-mentioned activities, this year the group held an Earth Hour games night, hosted a screening of the Oscar-winning film *The Cove*, and organized a valley walk and trip to a plant nursery. They also established links with nature buffs in the campus photography club.

The Green Wizards “bring people together who otherwise wouldn’t have met,” says Megan Harris, a journalism major who moderates the club’s Facebook page. Harris admits that continuity is a problem; once students have left residence, their interest in the wizards naturally wanes. But while there, the small community of eco-minded enthusiasts has their needs amply served, particularly by the Good Food Box. “That’s been popular because people have figured out that it’s a really easy way to get groceries every couple of weeks,” she says.

In future, the wizards hope their successors will be able to continue the greening of residence life; past members were able to get energy-efficient lighting installed, and a plan for better heating methods has been on the table for a while. In the meantime, they will do all they can to make it easy – and fun – to be green. “The positive attitudes of the club’s other leaders and all the staff constantly encourage me,” says member Jennifer Gordon. “I feel responsible for trying to open people’s eyes and minds.”

Cynthia Macdonald (BA 1986 St. Michael’s) is a writer in Toronto. She wrote “A World of Opportunity” in the Autumn 2009 issue.

|| ☞ Read about other student-led environmental projects, such as Bikechain, Rewire and Hot Yam, at www.magazine.utoronto.ca.

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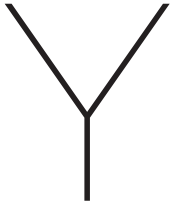
Illustration by Adam Simpson



PARENTS — AT LAST!

Science offers hope for more
and more infertile couples, but some
formidable barriers remain

By Marcia Kaye



OUNG, HEALTHY AND IN LOVE, Lynne and David Stawicki* were eager to start what they hoped would be a large family. A year passed, then another. By the third year without a pregnancy, the couple nervously sought medical testing. The results stunned them: David's sperm sample proved to contain no

sperm at all. Zero. "I was shocked," says David, 34.

Further tests revealed the reason: David was born missing both vas deferens, the two tubes that ferry sperm from the epididymis, behind the testicles, to the ejaculatory ducts. Genetic testing found that he was a carrier of cystic fibrosis, a chronic – often fatal – disease of the lungs and digestive system. While David didn't have the illness or any apparent symptoms of it, the lack of vas deferens (causing certain infertility) is common to all men who have the disease. "He *had* sperm," says Lynne, 32, "but no way for it to get where it needed to go."

The Stawickis' doctor referred them to Dr. Keith Jarvi, a urologist specializing in male infertility and a professor of surgery at U of T. Toronto was a distant 1,400 kilometres from the couple's northern Ontario home, but it was their best hope. As Jarvi says, "There's a huge infertility infrastructure here, and Toronto is a world leader in cystic fibrosis and male

infertility research." In a precisely synchronized series of procedures, doctors used a syringe to extract sperm directly from David's testes; they then retrieved mature eggs from Lynne's ovaries. Several days after the eggs were successfully fertilized in a Petri dish, two embryos were transferred to Lynne's uterus. The couple are now the parents of healthy 16-month-old twin boys. "It's pretty amazing," says David. "We know how fortunate we were to get that referral."

Toronto has one of the country's highest concentrations of infertility experts, and many of them are associated with U of T. The university's division of reproductive endocrinology and infertility, in the department of obstetrics and gynecology, includes 15 infertility specialists, three basic scientists, four reproductive endocrinologists and a clinical embryologist. Many of these men and women also run fertility clinics in Toronto and engage in various strands of research that investigate the causes, diagnoses and treatments of infertility – a disturbingly common condition that afflicts 10 to 20 per cent of Canadian couples, or approximately one in six.

Because infertility was scarcely talked about a generation or two ago, we don't know if the problem is becoming worse, and, if so, how much worse. But Ted Brown, the division's academic head and a professor in obstetrics and gynecology and physiology, says, "It seems to be increasing.

*The names of couples seeking infertility treatment have been changed.

The Age Barrier

Even with the best medical technology, most women over 40 have little chance of getting pregnant

Julia Roberts gave birth to twins at age 37, Jennifer Lopez at 38, Diana Krall at 42. With such high-profile celebrities becoming mothers in mid-life, it's no wonder many women have the mistaken idea that they're naturally fertile until menopause, around age 51. In truth, fertility in the average woman starts declining almost 20 years before that, in the early to mid-30s. Many people don't realize that a lot of middle-aged celebri-moms, especially if they have twins, have had high-tech help. It's a message that infertility experts say is simply not getting through. "We still get patients who come to us at age 41 and have no idea why they can't get pregnant," says Dr. Sony Sierra of

First Steps Fertility clinic in Toronto.

Data collected from the past few centuries on populations not using contraception all point to the same conclusion, says Dr. Ellen Greenblatt, clinical director of the Centre for Fertility and Reproductive Health and IVF Unit at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital. "It doesn't matter how young you look on the outside – biology is biology." Even with the best medical technology available today, a woman over 41 has less than a 10 per cent chance per IVF cycle of having a baby. That's due to many factors: fewer eggs (a baby girl is born with all the eggs she'll ever have, and the number goes down dramatically from birth); higher incidence of abnormal eggs; and more miscarriages.

So what of women who reportedly give birth in their 50s and 60s? Greenblatt says, "I can assure you those pregnancies are not with their own eggs." Ranjit Hayer of Calgary, believed to be the oldest Canadian woman ever to give birth, had twins last year at age 60; Maria del Carmen Bousada de Lara of Spain, the world's oldest confirmed new mother, had twins at age 66, then died of cancer last year before the children's third birthday. Both these pregnancies involved donor eggs and IVF treatments, and both generated much controversy. Hayer received IVF in India, Bousada in California after lying about her age. Most IVF clinics in Canada have a cut-off age for women of between 42 and 45.

While fertility gradually declines in men around age 40, there's no age beyond which men cannot have children. The late prime minister Pierre Trudeau fathered a daughter at 71, actor Tony Randall had two children in his late 70s (his wife was half a century his junior), and Canadian-born author Saul Bellow had a daughter at 84. But advancing paternal age carries its own risks: "There are much higher rates of schizophrenia in children of older men, independent of the mother's age," says Dr. Keith Jarvi, a urologist and male infertility specialist. Some studies have also suggested that older fathers increase the risk of autism, Down syndrome and other birth defects in their children. – Marcia Kaye

Couples are waiting longer to have children, as careers take time to become established, and fertility declines with age.” (See “The Age Barrier,” p. 42.)

But there’s a host of other reasons that people can’t produce or sustain a pregnancy. The causes can be structural, such as absent, blocked or deformed Fallopian tubes, uterus or vas deferens; or hormonal, including thyroid or sex hormone imbalances. They can be genetic, causing chromosomal aberrations in the egg, sperm or embryo; or the result of infections, such as from sexually transmitted diseases, which produce inflammation or scarring. Exposure to smoke, excessive alcohol, toxins, extreme stress or, in men, excessive heat to the genitals, such as that experienced by chefs or long-distance cyclists, are also factors. Then there’s the most frustrating reason of all: undetermined. While infertility problems have traditionally been blamed on the woman, in fact men may account for up to 50 per cent of the problem, says Brown.

But if infertility is on the increase, so is the range of treatments available, thanks in part to the work of many U of T-affiliated clinicians and researchers. Last year Mount Sinai Hospital consolidated its fertility programs into a new multidisciplinary, state-of-the-art facility. One of the centre’s many features is a quarantined lab for infertile couples in which one partner has a viral infection such as hepatitis B or C or HIV-AIDS. “Although the centre is a hospital program, it’s a soothing, off-site environment, so we have the best of both worlds,” says medical director Dr. Ellen Greenblatt, a professor in obstetrics and gynecology at U of T. Patients seeking help for infertility aren’t required to share waiting rooms with pregnant patients. The centre has about 18,000 clinic visits a year.

One common infertility problem is recurrent early miscarriage. That’s a particular area of interest for Dr. Sony Sierra, co-founder of First Steps Fertility clinic and a professor at U of T in obstetrics and gynecology. Almost half of all pregnancies miscarry before six weeks, Sierra says, chiefly because of random genetic error. But when a woman miscarries three pregnancies in a row, there’s often another reason. And sometimes the treatment can be surprisingly low-tech.

Case in point: Chloe Prasad,* a university professor herself, sought help from Sierra during her second pregnancy, which, like her first, ended in miscarriage. The 35-year-old was quickly diagnosed with polycystic ovarian syndrome, a common endocrine disorder affecting about seven per cent of infertile women and linked to diabetes. “I felt in perfect health, but I did have irregular periods and there is diabetes in my family,” Prasad says. After Prasad’s second miscarriage, Sierra put her on a course of metformin, a diabetes drug to help regulate insulin levels. “It worked like a charm,” Prasad says. “My husband and I have a beautiful, perfect, healthy son born last year.” She recently underwent another course of metformin and is pregnant again, due this fall.

While recurrent early miscarriage often has a physical or hormonal cause, Sierra says that something as simple as regular ultrasounds may help overcome some of these obstacles. A 2006 study (for which Sierra was a co-author) of 1,800 couples who had experienced at least two miscarriages found that simply by giving the patient two additional, reassuring ultrasounds in the course of a pregnancy increased the rate for successful completion from 15 per cent to 71 per cent, without the help of in vitro fertilization (IVF) or any other reproductive technology. “The mind-body connection is powerful, and psychological stress plays a huge role,” Sierra says. Using highly complex microarray technology, she is also conducting research into what she calls the “black box of pregnancy” – the two weeks after a woman releases an egg – to investigate exactly what happens to the endometrial lining to make it receptive or hostile to implantation.

There’s also a growing emphasis on preserving fertility in people who are at risk of losing it, such as cancer patients. Chemotherapy, radiation and surgery can compromise fertility, sometimes permanently, by damaging delicate testicular cells and some cell DNA. Dr. Kirk Lo, a urologist, a professor in the department of surgery at U of T and a surgeon investigator at Mount Sinai, sees boys and young men in their teens, 20s and 30s before cancer treatment to discuss options. The easiest is to take a few sperm samples – either through ejaculation or extraction – and freeze them, a process that leaves sperm viable for at least 20 years. But Lo says up to half of all oncologists don’t even discuss the issue with their young male patients or families. “Sperm preservation is not difficult, but awareness is a major issue, both among health professionals and the general public,” Lo says. He’d like every cancer centre to have one staff member specializing in fertility issues.

Taking the issue a step further, Lo’s lab is investigating ways to protect sperm cells from chemotherapy damage, even in males too young to produce sperm. Lo has been able to remove testicular stem cells from cancerous mice before chemotherapy and then inject them back afterward, restoring fertility. The way of the future, he suggests, will be to take stem cells from skin and reprogram them to become sperm cells. Lo and colleague Jarvi are also world leaders in identifying the more than 2,000 different proteins in semen, some of which may be markers for everything from infertility to prostate cancer.

Preserving fertility in females is a greater challenge. Extracting an egg for freezing can require weeks of preparation, and cancer patients often don’t have the luxury of time. Teresa Lee* was 25 when she developed non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, a cancer of the lymphatic system. There was such an emphasis on saving her life that there was no time or opportunity to extract and freeze her eggs. Lee is now 28 and healthy again, but has a lower “ovarian reserve.” She and her husband have gone through three cycles of IVF, with no pregnancy.

While drugs to help protect ovaries during chemotherapy are still experimental, Lee urges women to investigate their options. “You don’t realize how important fertility is until it’s taken away from you,” she says.

Infertile couples who do undergo successful IVF treatments often have another challenge to deal with: multiple pregnancy. To ensure that at least one embryo will “take,” IVF specialists often transfer two into a patient simultaneously (or more, as in the case of California’s “Octomom,” who gave birth to eight babies last year). Couples who have struggled to have a baby may think that multiples will be a bonus. But almost half of all twins and 90 per cent of all triplets, quads and quints are born premature, and multiples are five times more likely than single babies to have birth defects and disabilities.

A hot area of research is therefore the quest for the “best” egg to fertilize or the “best” embryo to transfer – which is tricky, considering that at least half of the eggs of an average, healthy young woman are abnormal. Dr. Robert Casper, professor of obstetrics and gynecology and medical director of the Toronto Centre for Advanced Reproductive Technology, is working on developing a quick, inexpensive test for egg selection. Since a healthy egg when it matures casts off half of its 46 chromosomes into an outlying structure called a polar body, a test that finds more or fewer than 23 castoffs in the polar body would suggest that the egg may be abnormal and therefore not a good choice for IVF. “If we can select which embryos to put back, it would allow us to put back fewer,” Casper says.

Casper adds that while the eggs of a woman in her late 20s or early 30s are optimal, by the mid-30s the eggs don’t always have the energy to separate their chromosomes properly. His lab has been working on reversing that process in mice by treating them with the naturally occurring compound co-enzyme Q10, which revs up mitochondria, the cell’s “batteries.” He says, “We were quite surprised that the eggs of these animals, who were 52 weeks old, looked 10 weeks old again.” He’s begun a randomized clinical trial in women over 35, with results expected next year. More than a decade ago, Casper and his team were the first to use aromatase inhibitors, drugs that block estrogen, instead of clomiphene to induce ovulation. Now standard therapy in many clinics, aromatase inhibitors are as effective as the older drug, but with fewer side effects to mother and baby.

Future research on infertility will almost certainly include more studies to find genetic links and identify molecular pathways of development for eggs, sperm and embryos. “I’m really interested in trying to identify what factors are required for embryo development and why some embryos grow slowly or fragment,” says Andrea Jurisicova, a scientist at Mount Sinai and a professor in obstetrics and gynecology and physiology

Who Should Pay for IVF?

Quebec announces it will cover three cycles, but most provinces don’t

Most patients in Canada currently pay directly for their IVF treatments, usually at about \$10,000 per cycle. But earlier this year, Quebec announced it would begin funding up to three IVF cycles per patient.

This is controversial: opponents argue that infertile people aren’t sick and shouldn’t be funded by the public health-care system; proponents counter that if IVF were covered, patients would be more likely to opt for a single embryo transfer instead of two or three. They say this would save the public system money, as hospital care for one pair of premature twins can easily cost 10 times that of an IVF treatment.

Dr. Ted Brown, academic head of the division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at U of T, says, “[Multiple pregnancies] are often high-risk pregnancies, and reducing the number of these would reduce the risk to women, and the associated health-care expenditures. We need to make single embryo transfer an attractive option.”

Toronto Fertility Clinics

Doctors mentioned in this article are affiliated with the following fertility clinics:

- Centre for Fertility and Reproductive Health at Mount Sinai Hospital
- The Canadian Reproductive Assisted Technology Fertility Centre, affiliated with Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and Women’s College Hospital
- Toronto Centre for Advanced Reproductive Technology
- LifeQuest Centre for Reproductive Medicine
- First Steps Fertility

at U of T. Jurisicova, whose lab works on egg cells from mice, says she’s excited that our increasing knowledge of genetics will vastly improve our understanding of infertility.

Meanwhile, Jurisicova has shown just how fragile fertility can be. In 2007 she headed a study that found that female mice exposed to the environmental pollutants called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, even before they got pregnant, dramatically reduced fertility in their offspring. The chemical, found in cigarette smoke, car exhaust, charred and smoked food, and fumes from wood stoves, caused a two-thirds drop in the number of egg-producing follicles in their female offspring. Fewer eggs mean lower fertility and earlier menopause. “There may be a message here for young girls who are thinking about starting to smoke,” Jurisicova says. “It’s possible that the impact of these chemicals on fertility could be much more long term than people think.”

Marcia Kaye (marciakaye.com) of Aurora, Ontario, is an award-winning magazine journalist specializing in health issues. She wrote about stem cell medicine in the Winter 2010 issue.

All about Alumni



The Outlaw

A musician by training, renegade computer designer Bill Buxton says true innovation comes through the freedom of play

Bill Buxton's philosophy is that "design," as a discipline, is about much more than deciding what colour a tea-kettle should be or the shape of a car's headlights. Design, he says, is not about *stuff*, but about the *experience* of using it—the object's social context, its value to us and its effect on the world around it. It's a philosophy he's put to work at Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center, at Canadian software

leader Alias/Wavefront and with his own Toronto design studio. And it's a philosophy that makes him "one of the world's most influential designers," according to businessweek.com (where he's also a regular columnist on design and innovation). Now he's working on his biggest canvas yet as principal researcher for software giant Microsoft.

A musician by training, Buxton (MSc 1978) gravitated >>>

Global Learning

Rumeet Toor launches a teacher's college in rural Kenya

DURING HER SECOND YEAR OF A BA at U of T Mississauga, Rumeet Toor acquired the company where she worked part time: Jobsineducation.com, an online job site for those in the education field. "I bought it as a for-profit business, but pretty quickly I began to think about what I could create out of it," says Toor, president of the company. "It began with giving a percentage of our revenue to causes supporting education."

Today, part of this revenue has gone to one of her biggest projects yet: the Toor Centre for Teacher Education in Kenya, launched in May. The teachers' college will provide education for 25 to 30 local students each year, as well as employment and leadership opportunities in the Mbooni region. Toor, 27, chose the location to serve rural residents who can't afford to live and board in cities – where most teachers' colleges in Kenya are located.

Initially conceived as a five-year plan, the Toor Centre was established in six months, after the local community donated a building. Toor collaborated with David Y. Kim (MEd 2010 OISE) and others on the curriculum.

After earning her degree in sociology and industrial relations in 2006, Toor worked on projects with the humanitarian group Free the Children. She travelled with the organization to Kenya and Ecuador, where she helped build schools and conducted research with members of the indigenous communities. During this time, Toor was also working on a master of education at OISE – and this June, she started the Community College Leadership PhD Program at U of T.

"Education helps to shape who we are. Every type of learning – in class or out, even conversations – affects who we are. There's so much value in it," says Toor, who also has a certificate in strategic leadership from the School of Continuing Studies. "This is what I love to do. My work is my life." – *Liz Allemang*



We die [like other animals], but what sets us apart is we're aware of that fact. We can't make ourselves unaware of it. The best we can do is find ways to distract ourselves. In the [undertaking] business, it just comes every day.



Tom Jokinen, author of *Curtains: Adventures of an Undertaker-in-Training*, from a *Time* interview in April. Jokinen attended U of T's Faculty of Medicine for two years.

>> to computer science partly because of his interest in digital instruments. In 1975, he came to U of T as an informal "artist-in-residence" in the computer science department, experimenting with new ways of making music with computers. "We were all kind of outlaws within that department," Buxton says of his and his colleagues' time there. "We were deemed to not be doing serious things." But through their research, Buxton and his peers ended up solving thorny problems in computer graphics and user-interface design, such as how to edit musical scores on a computer screen (they were experimenting with multi-touch surfaces – now made ubiquitous by iPhones – as early as 1984). The experience cemented Buxton's opinion that most significant innovations typically happen unintentionally, while pursuing something different. "That's why we were so successful," he says, "because we were

playing – we weren't consciously trying to do great computer science, we were just totally captivated by trying to do great animation and great music. The contributions we made to computer science were unintended consequences. To paraphrase Oscar Wilde, these things are too important to take seriously. You have to have the freedom of play to be able to explore things thoroughly."

That is also why Buxton now focuses as much on corporate culture as individual products: he wants to create workplaces where happy accidents, useful failures or sudden inspiration can mix, leading to innovative ideas. That means studying intuitive computers, such as tabletop displays that users can manipulate with their hands or objects, or sophisticated teleconferencing systems that allow co-workers in different places to collaborate as if they were in the same room. – *Graham F. Scott*

The Lost Left

Westerners who reject mainstream culture as “inauthentic” may, in fact, be status seekers, says Andrew Potter

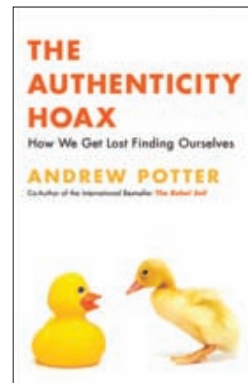
IT'S ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS – and nastiest – exchanges in literary history. A young writer, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, sends France's reigning man of letters, Voltaire, a copy of his second book – in which he argues that men got along better in a state of nature than under civilization's yoke. Voltaire responds trenchantly: “I have received your new book against the human species...to read your book makes one long to go on all fours.”

This exchange – and the underlying philosophical debate between believers in the overall benefits of Western civilization and its severe critics – underlies *The Authenticity Hoax: How We Get Lost Finding Ourselves* by Andrew Potter. As Potter presents it, Rousseau's views have markedly affected key social and artistic movements over the last two centuries. Rousseau idealized the natural world and man's place in it, inspiring everyone from the Romantic poets to the latest inheritors, the Declinists.

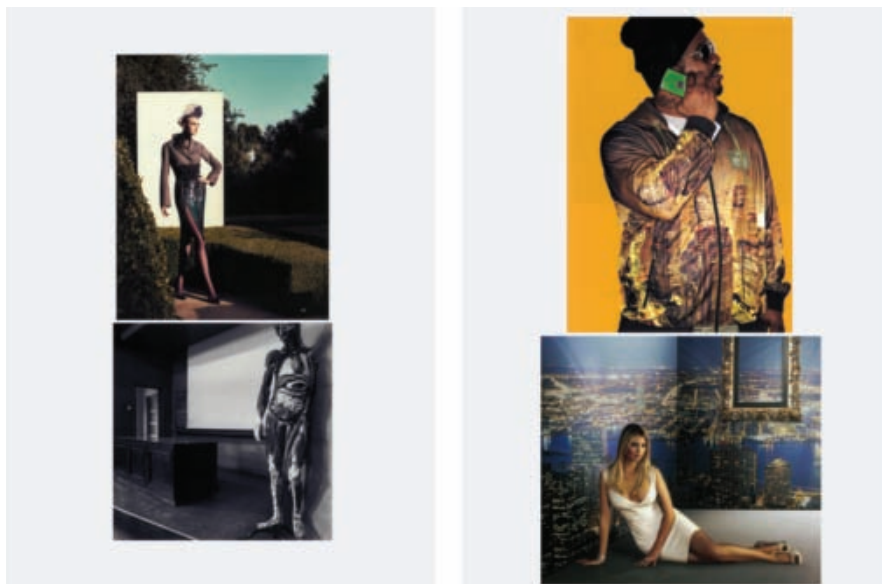
As the name would suggest, Declinists worry that we're on a downward trajectory, that we're losing touch with nature and our authentic selves, getting lost in the superficial pandemonium of shopping malls and suburbs. The Declinists (he numbers Prince Charles, Al Gore and David Suzuki among them) are determined to escape shallow modernity by questing for authentic experiences. Different people seek this escape in

different fashions: through eating organically and locally; through extreme eco-tourism; through yoga and meditation. To Potter (MA 1994, PhD 2000), these purported quests to live more authentically are often disguised status-seeking – the latest way to put those pesky Joneses in their place. “I know this great little Oaxacan cafeteria in this weird industrial area in the West End...”

These assorted rejections of mainstream culture and capitalism are misguided, according to Potter; more than this, they are dangerous. For Potter, the Western authenticity seeker and the anti-American terrorist share a surprisingly similar world view, if wholly different approaches to forwarding their agenda. “This description of al-Qaeda,” he writes, “as an authenticity movement devoted to the rejection of American consumer capitalism helps explain one of the strangest formations on the post-9/11 intellectual landscape, which is the widespread sympathy from the left for the broad themes, if not the explicit theses, of al-Qaeda.” Modern living may not be the best of all possible worlds, but nor is it as bad as its detractors maintain. Our life expectancy has soared over the last two centuries, our quality of life is vastly better than our ancestors'. Potter doesn't dismiss the worries of the environmental movement, but he thinks we should be careful when we fantasize about getting ourselves back to the garden. – *Alec Scott*



TOP PHOTO: COURTESY OF MCCLELLAND & STEWART. BOTTOM PHOTO: LUIS JACOB



Last year, Montreal-based curator Marie Fraser approached artist Luis Jacob about producing a mid-career survey of his work. The result? An exhibition with three chapters – each conceived specifically for the city it is shown in: Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

The first stop for “Tableaux: Pictures at an Exhibition” is Darling Foundry in Montreal, from June 17 to August 19. In one gallery, Jacob is showing “Album VIII” (2009), which consists of hundreds of images culled from books, magazines and other publications. In the excerpt to the left, bodies are framed within their environment, while surroundings are incorporated into the bodies.

In Montreal, Jacob (BA 1996 UC) is also presenting a new installation that takes the form of a gallery within a gallery. In this new space – a gallery room with one glass wall – guests can check out 12 monochrome paintings. Seen from the outside through the glass wall, these same guests will become part of the “exhibition tableau.”

The Toronto chapter of Jacob's exhibition will open in February 2011 at the Museum of Canadian Contemporary Art.

The Two of Us

Lee Campbell and Peter Forsythe



WHEN LEE CAMPBELL AND PETER FORSYTHE met as undergrads in 1975, they couldn't have anticipated their impending adventures – which included a move across the continent and living thousands of miles apart for several years. Lee (BScN 1978)

worked for a major health insurer for almost 20 years; Peter (BSc 1977) continues to work as deputy chief harbor engineer at the Port of Long Beach.

LEE: Peter and I met at a dance on campus – although we disagree about who initiated first contact. We fell in love slowly, and both graduated from our university programs before marrying. We see things the same way, appreciate the value of hard work and have a sense of adventure. I graduated during a nursing surplus in Toronto and wanted hospital work, so we knew we would have to make big changes. After marrying in North York, we moved to southern California. We didn't have much; we loaded our clothes and some pots and pans into Pete's old car and headed southwest. Our introduction to California was seeing the Palm Springs hillside on fire, due

to a desert wind, in March 1979. We had jobs with low pay initially, so the only way we could afford to buy a house was if we did something unique. Pete left to work for three years in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. I couldn't get a visa so stayed behind to work nights. We've been married for more than 30 years now and it's been quite the adventure.

PETER: We married, then left everyone to move 3,000 miles away. When you face challenges like that it brings you closer. Another challenge was when I worked in the Middle East for three years, as it was very difficult living apart. I worked 60-hour weeks on marine construction projects while Lee was in California working nights. We would go three to four months without seeing each other. Phone calls were tricky given our time zones and work schedules. We wrote a lot of heartfelt letters to each other in those years. Saudi Arabia was strict – I was once jailed for a traffic ticket there. After I returned to work in California, we became homeowners after the 1994 Northridge earthquake. We have no plans to move back to Canada, but before every big Olympic hockey game and on July 1st we proudly hoist the Canadian flag in front of our house!



She is one of Canada's longest-serving

mayors, and she has overseen the growth of Mississauga from a sleepy suburb to a diverse municipality of more than 700,000. On June 7, Mayor Hazel McCallion received an honorary degree from U of T at Convocation Hall. The 89-year-old – who has confirmed she will run for re-election in October – was honoured for her leadership of Mississauga since 1978 and for her work with Hazel's Hope, a World Vision charity that helps children affected by HIV-AIDS in Tanzania.

Others who received honorary degrees this spring are artist Charles Pachter; author Lawrence Hill; former opposition leader Preston Manning; former deputy prime minister John Manley; and Mary Anne Chambers, who served as provincial minister of training, colleges and universities and of children and youth services. Philosopher and University Professor Emeritus Ian Hacking; astrophysicist Scott Tremaine; and Richard Alway, president of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, also earned honorary doctorates. Marie Sanderson, the first Canadian woman to become a full professor in geography, received an honorary degree in May.



First Person

Where are the Women? Liberal MP Martha Hall Findlay asks why only one-fifth of Canadian politicians are female

WOMEN REPRESENT ONLY ABOUT 21 PER CENT of elected politicians in Canada, but 52 per cent of the population. We represent more than half of the people affected by legislation passed by our politicians, but we're not nearly half of the group making the decisions.

This is a problem. We need to be at the table when policies that affect us and our society are developed, prioritized, debated and implemented. I'm not one who believes we need more women there because we are somehow "better" at the conduct of politics, or because we're somehow more co-operative or consensus-driven than men. I'm not even sure that's true. Women need to be equally represented, quite simply, because we're equally affected – and by being there, we'll get decisions that better reflect the needs of *all* of society, not just half. It's frustratingly like the classic 1950s scenario, with the husband making all of the financial and other significant decisions for not only himself but also his wife and family. Most of us would no longer accept that in our personal lives – why should we accept it for our country?

And the need for more women is not because of so-called "women's issues," a term I have trouble with. My background is international relations, international law and business – my

primary political interests are economics and finance, foreign affairs and trade. Yes, I also have three great kids. And, yes, I am interested (and from experience, pretty well versed) in child care and early learning. And, yes, women bear most of the burden for it. But child care (as only one example) is not just a women's issue. It affects families, society, job participation and, ultimately, the country's overall economic environment and success. We all have a vested interest in it. I worry, in fact, that using the label "women's issues" serves to marginalize some of the very issues that need to be better addressed.

But we still have the basic concern: How do we get to a place where women are equally represented among decision-makers? The more women run, the more women will get elected. We need to get more women interested, engaged and, ultimately, keen to run for public office.

There a number of challenges and barriers: money, the media, the style of politics, whether women are more uneasy about public exposure. A big issue, though, is that politics is simply not a nine-to-five job. It's daytime, nighttime and weekends. Federal politics requires living in two places. And in our society, women still bear the largest share of the responsibility for children and aging parents, family and social activities, and household chores. Until such time as men bear equal responsibility for those things, it's hard to get an equal number of women willing and able to leave home for weeks at a time. And it's not just time and availability. The pressure put on women from society, family and friends – and themselves – is very strong, particularly where there are kids. The level of expectation – and guilt – is very different from that faced, generally, by men.

I'd be thrilled if I had a solution to that larger societal inequality, but, absent that, what do we do? In my case, I simply didn't take the plunge until I was 45, with other responsibilities behind me.

To the older women out there – those of you, like me, who have already managed responsibilities such as kids and other careers, and who are now in a position (family-wise, time-wise, financially) to contribute through public office: we need you.

To those women out there who have young children, or other obligations, but without the necessary family or other support needed to juggle those life responsibilities: we want you there, and involved, but perhaps actually running for office can wait. There are other ways to be involved in politics in the meantime, and we, your communities and your country need you.

Martha Hall Findlay (BA 1983 VIC) is Liberal MP for Willowdale, Ontario, and is Official Opposition Critic for Public Works and Government Services. She ran for the leadership of the Liberal Party of Canada in 2006. She encourages any woman interested in getting involved in politics to write to her at HallFindlay.M@parl.gc.ca.

60 Seconds With

Heather Moyse



Heather Moyse (right) with bobsled partner Kaillie Humphries

SHE SHATTERED TRACK RECORDS while hurtling down an ice chute at 150 km/h at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics. **Heather Moyse** (MSc OT 2007) and her teammate Kaillie Humphries won gold for Canada in bobsled – a.k.a. Formula One on ice. The native of Prince Edward Island is now back to her first love: rugby. **Lisa Bryn Rundle** talks to Moyse, who is preparing for the Women's Rugby World Cup in August.

Tell me about your Olympic experience.

Our goal for the whole games was to stay focused and still have fun.... We'd warm up with music, and just dance. It was a reminder that it was going to be OK no matter what.

And we purposely didn't look at the times of the other teams. We had no idea whether the per-

son behind us was eight-hundredths or three-tenths of a second behind us. We didn't find out until the next day that we beat the silver medallists by almost a full second. That is generally unheard of in bobsled.

In bobsled, a tenth of a second is huge.

Yes. In the last Olympics, Helen Upperton and I lost a podium spot by five-hundredths of a second! That's what brought me back. I couldn't let that five-hundredths of a second go.

What is your job as the person at the back of the bobsled?

My job is to get the sled going as fast as possible into the track. But that's not just about the start time – you really want to have the best velocity, accelerating as you go into the track because that's what the driver has to gain on.

What attracted you to bobsled? Were you a kid who loved to throw yourself down hills on a Krazy Karpet?

No. I didn't do bobsled until I was 27. I wasn't attracted to it at all.... Bobsleigh Canada actually asked me when I was 22 and my first thought was, 'No way am I wearing a uniform that is head-to-toe spandex.'

You're also a rugby player. Rugby is such a tough sport. How do you do it all?

Well, bobsled is pretty tough too. It's not very comfortable in the back of the sled. You get tossed around. There's a tendency to crash...

Good point.

So I definitely didn't pick the glamorous sports. But growing up for me, rugby was the cool thing to do. In PEI, rugby's huge.

And no spandex. What's the weirdest star moment you've had since the gold?

The weirdest thing is when friends want to get my autograph. And I'm like – I sent you a birthday card last year. You have my autograph.

|| ☞ Read about hockey player and U of T alumna Jayna Hefford, who came home with her third Olympic gold, at www.magazine.utoronto.ca.

Milestones



Under the leadership of **Michael Beeler**, Students for International Development set up a rural health centre, two feeding programs and a number of microfinance projects in Kenya. Beeler – who attends Innis College and is president of Students for International Development – is one of 145 recipients of this year's Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Awards, established by the U of T Alumni Association and University Advancement to recognize students who have made outstanding extracurricular contributions.

Other Cressy award recipients include **Monika Manchanda**, who attends U of T Scarborough and is president of the Psychology and Neuroscience Departmental Association. She has been a co-ordinator of ThinkFirst Canada's Aviva Brain Day, helping educate elementary school students about the nervous system and the importance of injury prevention, and has also been involved with Students Advocating for Mental Health Awareness. In 2006 **Geoffrey Siu** helped found the Skule Orchestra – a 60-member ensemble that performs a professional repertoire – which he now manages. Siu also founded Moment, a ballroom dancing event, and the Skule Arts Festival. PhD student **Jocelyn Simmonds** is spreading the word about computer science to groups she feels are still underrepresented in the field – women and Hispanics. Simmonds has mentored girls who might consider careers in computer science, and is also a contributor to Latinas in Computing.

|| ☞ To read about all the Gordon Cressy award winners, visit <http://alumni.utoronto.ca/s/731/index.aspx?pgid=664&gid=1>.

Looking East and West

Campus growth high on the agenda for Governing Council members



Michael Marrus, Nikolaj Kuryluk and Maureen Somerville are newly elected alumni governors

HOW U OF T MANAGES ITS two rapidly growing east and west campuses will be a central issue for members of the university's Governing Council when it reconvenes this fall.

The council's September meeting will be the first for several new governors, including Nikolaj Kuryluk, one of three alumni representatives elected in the spring. Maureen Somerville, who has served on council since 2004, was re-elected. And professor emeritus Michael Marrus, who was previously a faculty governor, will continue his long service as an alumni governor.

The representatives will likely find U of T's governing structure at the top of the agenda. Marrus, who is a member of the task force examining governance, says the university's current system of governance wasn't set up to handle Scarborough and Mississauga at their current sizes. With 10,000 students each, the campuses are several times larger than when the system was established almost 40 years ago.

"There is a lot of duplication in Governing Council, and there is a lot of time devoted to transactional matters while strategic issues are not given so much attention," says Marrus

(BA 1963 UC, MSL 2005). He notes that the task force will deliver a report in late June, recommending governance changes for the east and west campuses. "Exactly how we're going to sort this out I don't know. It's not the job of governors to manage the university. But it is the job of governors to ensure that the university is well managed."

Somerville (BA 1969 UTSC, BEd 1970 OISE) can appreciate the scope of the challenge. She attended U of T Scarborough in the late 1960s, and agrees that the pace of expansion at the east and west campuses needs to be addressed. Somerville, who taught high school English and drama for almost 30 years, is also concerned with representation on council itself. "When you look at the governors, only two of eight alumni governors are female and the rest are white males and I think this imbalance needs to be addressed," she says, adding that this is not the fault of the college of electors. "Perhaps there needs to be an open discussion about how we can get alumni governors who better reflect today's U of T community."

Nykolaj Kuryluk (BSc 1989 UTM), the only alumni representative new to Governing Council this year, is director of the strategy and program management office for Amgen Canada – a biotechnology company based in Mississauga. Kuryluk's expertise lies in strategic planning, new product commercialization and change management. He believes the university's biggest challenge over the next decade will be to remain a worldwide leader in research – especially in the wake of the global economic meltdown – while continuing to offer a superior student experience. Doing so, he says, will require "state-of-the-art infrastructure" in order to recruit and retain the best faculty, as well as innovative program development. "Unique programs will give the university, its students and future employers a competitive advantage," he says.

However, research and program development require money, and funding is a perennial issue for U of T. "The university has financial problems that have affected virtually every division," says Marrus. Because U of T receives the majority of its funding from the province and from fees, which are regulated, it does not have much scope to raise revenues. "What we can do is to make sure that we have the best relations with government and that we oversee our endowment and investments properly," says Marrus. "I certainly don't have any rabbits to pull out of the hat." – *Scott Anderson*



PHOTO: COURTESY OF BRUCE KIDD

1966

Royal Runner

Bruce Kidd participates in the Queen's Baton Relay – the first of two times

On a misty July morning in 1966, Bruce Kidd – now dean of U of T's Faculty of Physical Education and Health – ran through the Buckingham Palace gates with a gold-plated baton in hand. He was flanked by British running champions Brian Kilby (left) and Bruce Tulloh.

Kidd was the lead runner in the Queen's Baton Relay, which precedes the Commonwealth Games and is similar to the Olympic torch relay. Queen Elizabeth II herself had proffered the baton, along with some pleasantries, in the palace's forecourt. ("How do you like this Scotch mist?" she politely inquired.)

The runners cantered across Queen's Park to a dais, where Kidd handed the baton to the Jamaican high commissioner to the U.K. Baton bearers would eventually carry the

torch across England and islands in the British West Indies.

While only 23, Kidd was an old hand at being a star runner: he had won gold and bronze at the 1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games and competed in the 1964 Olympics.

Recently, Kidd (BA 1965 UC) again took part in the Queen's Baton Relay: on April 14, he carried the baton along Metro Hall Square during the Toronto leg of the event.

Kidd is now set to hand off another sort of honour: after 19 years at the helm of Physical Education and Health, he will be stepping down at the end of June. (He will, however, remain as a professor.) A champion of equity and diversity in sports, it is certain, however, that Kidd is ending one leg of the race simply to begin another. – *Stacey Gibson*



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Spring 2010 Convocation

**JUNE
2010**

Over the course of a few weeks this June, some 10,000 U of T students converged on Convocation Hall, where they were officially welcomed into the university's alumni community. Joining this year's new grads as they celebrated this milestone were nine of the 10 distinguished honorary graduands listed to the right. (Marie Sanderson received her honorary degree at a private ceremony in May.) As custom dictates, each honorary degree recipient addressed their convocation. Webcasts of these presentations are available at www.convocation.utoronto.ca/webcast.htm.

Spring 2010 Honorary Degree Recipients

Richard Martin

Holden Alway

(BA 1962 St. Michael's)
President of the Pontifical
Institute of Mediaeval
Studies

Mary Anne V. Chambers (BA 1988 UTSC)

Former senior vice-
president at Scotiabank,
former Ontario MPP and
cabinet minister, and a
strong supporter of
education in Jamaica
and Canada

Ian Hacking

Philosopher specializing
in the philosophy of
science, winner of the
Holberg International
Memorial Prize

Lawrence Hill

The author of seven
books, including the
internationally acclaimed
The Book of Negroes

John Manley

Lawyer and former Liberal
MP and cabinet minister,
now president and CEO of
the Canadian Council of
Chief Executives

Preston Manning

Founder of the Reform
Party of Canada and the
Canadian Reform Con-
servative Alliance, former
Leader of the Opposition,
and a senior fellow of the
Fraser Institute

Hazel McCallion

Long-serving mayor of
Mississauga and founder
of Hazel's Hope, a charity
for children with HIV-AIDS
in Tanzania

Charles S. Pachter

(BA 1964 UC)
Canadian painter,
printmaker, sculptor
and designer

Marie Sanderson

(BA 1944 UC)
Canada's first female
geography professor and
the first female president
of the Canadian Associa-
tion of Geographers

Scott D. Tremaine

An astrophysicist widely
known for contributions
to the theory of solar
system and galactic
dynamics